

Hafa Adai!

Most illicit drugs now coming from US mainland. **PAGE 2**
NMHC reopens housing assistance program. **PAGE 6**

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Saipan Tribune

I sought this office to restore the soul of America and to make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home.

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and WILL WEISSERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, positioning himself to be a leader who “seeks not to divide, but to unify” a nation gripped by a historic pandemic and a confluence of economic and social turmoil.

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COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Volume XXX, Issue No. 222
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BIDEN DEFEATS TRUMP

‘It’s time to heal’

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to supporters, early Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020, in Wilmington, Del. AP

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Hanamitsu Hotel Spa is reinventing itself as site for the CNMI’s residents and not just for tourists.

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The Irish town of Ballina in Ireland is celebrating Joe Biden’s presidential victory.

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LIFE & STYLE

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\$182,700 WORTH OF DRUGS INTERCEPTED AT POST OFFICE

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NMHC reopens housing assistance

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has reopened a program that will help ease homelessness by extending aid to homeowners for rent, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security deposits for up to a year.

Addressing potential homelessness for households that were severely impacted by COVID-19, NMHC has reopened the distribution of pre-applications of the Hearth-Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID program, through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which will provide homeowners financial assistance for 12 months.

According to NMHC, they are reopening the pre-application process, and applicants can pick up an HESG pre-application form at NMHC Saipan Central Office in Garapan and its field offices on Rota and Tinian from last Oct. 28; distribution of pre-application forms will end on Nov. 30.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the CNMI a total of \$1.09 million last July 19 in HESG-COVID funds that will help a household in rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits.

About 25% of the grant has

been set aside for the elderly and disabled population

The applications will be on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

"The purpose of the HESG-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic," said NMHC in a statement.

In order to be eligible for the grant, households must be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in sub-standard conditions that pose an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.), must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien, must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income), and must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options.

Individuals who are interested in applying can pick up a pre-application at the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application available on the NMHC website, www.nmhc.gov.net.

Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC, caseworkers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the appli-

See NMHC on Next Page



PARENTING IN A PANDEMIC: Tips to Keep the Calm at Home



DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
PARENT EDUCATION SERVICES

USE POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

Everyone is more anxious and worried during the pandemic. Younger children may not have the words to describe their feelings. They're more likely to act out their stress, anxiety or fear through their behavior which can, in turn, upset parents particularly if they are already stressed. Older children and teens may be extra irritable as they miss out with friends and special events being cancelled.

Some ways you can help your children manage their emotions and behavior:

- **Redirect bad behavior** — Sometimes children misbehave because they are bored or don't know any better. Find something else for them to do.
- **Direct your attention** — To reinforce good behaviors and discourage others is a powerful tool. Notice good behavior and point it out, praising success and good tries. Explaining clear expectations, particularly with older children can help with this.
- **Use rewards & privileges** — To reinforce good behaviors (chores, getting along with siblings, etc.) that wouldn't normally be given during less stressful times.
- **Know when not to respond** — As long as your child isn't doing something dangerous and gets attention for good behavior, ignoring bad behavior can be an effective way of stopping it.
- **Take care of yourself** — Caregivers also should be sure to take care of themselves physically, eat healthy, exercise and get enough sleep. Find ways to decompress and take breaks. If more than one parent is home, take turns watching the children if possible.

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Torres congratulates Biden, thanks Trump

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, a Republican issued Sunday the following statement:

"On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I congratulate President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. It is our collective hope that we can work for the betterment of the people of our entire nation and our Commonwealth here in the Pacific. We recognize this historic milestone of wom-

en leadership in our country with the election of Vice President-elect Harris, and we join the nation in creating an environment for diversity and inclusion throughout all parts of our American government from federal to local. We look forward to working with them and their Democratic administration, just as we did with President Obama and his administration to great success.

"We want to sincerely thank President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence for their ser-

vice and dedication to our country. Since his election in 2016, President Trump has pledged his commitment and support for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and he has delivered time and time again for our people. The Trump Administration has helped us pass meaningful federal legislation such as the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, which protects U.S. workers in their jobs, develops our local workforce, ensures the viability of our CW-1 visa program, and safeguards families of long-term residents. President Trump made sure

the CNMI was heard in federal discussions regarding military training and projects in the Marianas, as well as worked closely with me during our 902 Consultations in protecting our national security interests and our access to economic resources and opportunities.

"Most importantly, President Trump supported the CNMI during a time of great need in 2018 when Super Typhoon Yutu devastated our islands—the strongest storm to hit U.S. soil in over 80 years. Through his administration, federal first responders from FEMA and DoD

were on the ground to help our island residents get back on their feet. That support continues to this day as we continue to receive federal funding through the CDBG-DR program to rebuild homes, schools, and public facilities, while hardening our infrastructure.

"As we seek to bring our country together after an election and move forward, we believe in the value of relationships with our federal partners and that we will continue to work for the best interests of the people that call the U.S. and the CNMI home." (PR)

Hix congratulates Biden-Harris

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix said yesterday they are confident that the Biden-Harris tandem is a presidency for all Americans and

that they look forward to an excellent partnership with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the next four years and beyond.

In his congratulatory message yesterday to Biden and Harris, Sablan said the largest ever voter turnout

and the largest-ever popular vote for Biden and Harris confirm that democracy in American remains strong.

Hix congratulated the people of America for electing Biden and Harris in what she described as a historic time, both locally and nationally, where more women across the country are running and getting elected into office.

"We've just elected our first female vice president," Hix said.

She said that, despite the challenges surrounding this pandemic, millions of people came out and participated in democracy by exercising their right to vote. She

RELATED NEWS

■ Kilili congratulates President-elect Biden.

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said it was quite a race and now that it's over, the people must come together as a nation to heal what

divides America.

"Similar to our NMI Democrats—regardless of party lines, we are a party of the people," Hix said.

TIME

From Page 1

"I sought this office to restore the soul of America," said Biden in a prime-time victory speech not far from his Delaware home, "and to make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home."

His victory came after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in votes that delayed processing. Biden crossed the winning threshold of 270 Electoral College votes with a win in Pennsylvania.

Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting.

Biden, 77, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. The strategy proved effective, resulting in pivotal victories in Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Pennsylvania, onetime Democratic bastions that had flipped to Trump in 2016.

Biden's victory was a repudiation of Trump's divisive leadership and the president-elect now inherits a deeply polarized nation grappling with foundational questions of racial justice and economic fairness while in the grips of a virus that has killed more than 236,000 Americans and reshaped the norms of everyday life.

Kamala Harris made history as the first Black woman to become vice president, an achievement that comes as the U.S. faces a reckoning on racial justice. The California senator, who is also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency, will become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government, four years after Trump defeated Hillary Clinton.

Harris introduced Biden "as a president for all Americans" who would look to bridge a nation riven with partisanship and nodded to the historic nature of her ascension to the vice presidency.

"Dream with ambition, lead with

conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply because they've never seen it before," Harris said. "You chose hope and unity, decency, science and, yes, truth ... you ushered in a new day for America."

Biden was on track to win the national popular vote by more than 4 million, a margin that could grow as ballots continue to be counted.

Nonetheless, Trump was not giving up.

Departing from longstanding democratic tradition and signaling a potentially turbulent transfer of power, he issued a combative statement saying his campaign would take unspecified legal actions. And he followed up with a bombastic, all-caps tweet in which he falsely declared, "I WON THE ELECTION, GOT 71,000,000 LEGAL VOTES." Twitter immediately flagged it as misleading.

Trump has pointed to delays in processing the vote in some states to allege with no evidence that there was fraud and to argue that his rival was trying to seize power—an extraordinary charge by a sitting president trying to sow doubt about a bedrock democratic process.

Trump is the first incumbent president to lose reelection since Republican George H.W. Bush in 1992.

He was golfing at his Virginia country club when he lost the race. He stayed out for hours, stopping to congratulate a bride as he left, and his motorcade returned to the White House to a cacophony of shouts, taunts and unfriendly hand gestures.

In Wilmington, Delaware, near the stage that, until Saturday night, had stood empty since it was erected to celebrate on Election Night, people cheered and pumped their fists as the news that the presidential race had been called for the state's former senator arrived on their cellphones.

On the nearby water, two men in a kayak yelled to a couple paddling by in the opposite direction, "Joe won! They called it!" as people on the shore whooped and hollered. Harris, in workout gear, was shown on video speaking to Biden on the phone, exuberantly telling the president-elect "We did it!" Biden was expected to

take the stage for a drive-in rally after dark.

Across the country, there were parties and prayer. In New York City, spontaneous block parties broke out. People ran out of their buildings, banging on pots. They danced and high-fived with strangers amid honking horns. Among the loudest cheers were those for passing U.S. Postal Service trucks.

People streamed into Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, near where Trump had ordered the clearing of protesters in June, waving signs and taking cellphone pictures. In Lansing, Michigan, Trump supporters and Black Lives Matter demonstrators filled the Capitol steps. The lyrics to "Amazing Grace" began to echo through the crowd, and Trump supporters laid their hands on a counter protester, and prayed.

Americans showed deep interest in the presidential race. A record 103 million voted early this year, opting to avoid waiting in long lines at polling locations during a pandemic. With counting continuing in some states, Biden had already received more than 74 million votes, more than any presidential candidate before him.

Trump's refusal to concede has no legal implications. But it could add to the incoming administration's challenge of bringing the country together after a bitter election.

Throughout the campaign, Trump repeatedly refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, arguing without evidence that the election could be marred by fraud. The nation has a long history of presidential candidates peacefully accepting the outcome of elections, dating back to 1800, when John Adams conceded to his rival Thomas Jefferson.

It was Biden's native Pennsylvania that put him over the top, the state he invoked throughout the campaign to connect with working class voters. He also won Nevada on Saturday pushing his total to 290 Electoral College votes.

Biden received congratulations from dozens of world leaders, and his former boss, President Barack Obama, saluted him in a statement, declaring the nation was "fortunate that Joe's got what it takes to be

President and already carries himself that way."

Republicans on Capitol Hill were giving Trump and his campaign space to consider all their legal options. It was a precarious balance for Trump's allies as they try to be supportive of the president -- and avoid risking further fallout -- but face the reality of the vote count.

On Saturday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had not yet made any public statements -- either congratulating Biden or joining Trump's complaints. But retiring GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who is close to McConnell, said, "After counting every valid vote and allowing courts to resolve disputes, it is important to respect and promptly accept the result."

More than 236,000 Americans have died during the coronavirus pandemic, nearly 10 million have been infected and millions of jobs have been lost. The final days of the campaign played out against a surge in confirmed cases in nearly every state, including battlegrounds such as Wisconsin that swung to Biden.

The pandemic will soon be Biden's to tame, and he campaigned pledging a big government response, akin to what Franklin D. Roosevelt oversaw with the New Deal during the Depression of the 1930s. But Senate Republicans fought back several Democratic challengers and looked to retain a fragile majority that could serve as a check on such Biden ambition.

The 2020 campaign was a referendum on Trump's handling of the pandemic, which has shuttered schools across the nation, disrupted businesses and raised questions about the feasibility of family gatherings heading into the holidays.

The fast spread of the coronavirus transformed political rallies from standard campaign fare to gatherings that were potential public health

emergencies. It also contributed to an unprecedented shift to voting early and by mail and prompted Biden to dramatically scale back his travel and events to comply with restrictions. The president defied calls for caution and ultimately contracted the disease himself.

Trump was saddled throughout the year by negative assessments from the public of his handling of the pandemic. There was another COVID-19 outbreak in the White House this week, which sickened his chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Biden also drew a sharp contrast to Trump through a summer of unrest over the police killings of Black Americans including Breonna Taylor in Kentucky and George Floyd in Minneapolis. Their deaths sparked the largest racial protest movement since the civil rights era. Biden responded by acknowledging the racism that pervades American life, while Trump emphasized his support of police and pivoted to a "law and order" message that resonated with his largely white base.

The third president to be impeached, though acquitted in the Senate, Trump will leave office having left an indelible imprint in a tenure defined by the shattering of White House norms and a day-to-day whirlwind of turnover, partisan divide and Twitter blasts.

Trump's team has filed a smattering of lawsuits in battleground states, some of which were immediately rebuffed by judges. His personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, was holding a news conference in Philadelphia threatening more legal action when the race was called.

Biden, born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and raised in Delaware, was one of the youngest candidates ever elected to the Senate. Before he took office, his wife and daughter were killed, and his two sons badly injured in a 1972 car crash.

NMHC

From Page 3

cant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the caseworker will schedule an appoint-

ment and notify the applicant of the date and time. If an applicant is ineligible, a notification will still be sent to the applicant. For eligible applicants, the caseworker will inform them of the next steps. (Justine Nauta)

Burglary and theft at Dandan store

On Monday, Oct. 26, 2020, at about 6:28am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at the Zori Zori clothing store in the village of Dandan.

At the scene, police officers met with the caller who led police into the store. The caller showed police where the suspects gained entry into the store

and showed police the damaged items within the store. The caller then mentioned the items that were missing, including seven silver necklaces worth \$200, a box of Scott's brand footwear (zories), A.F.G Brand glass bong, and various CBD products.

DPS would like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing jewelry, Scott's

footwear, smoking equipment, or CBD products from unknown individuals or online. If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell or gift you jewelry, Scott's footwear, smoking equipment, or CBD products matching the description, call 911 immediately, or if you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. **(PR)**

Request of former Hillbroom estate attorney vs estate trustee is granted

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the request for partial summary judgment of one of the former Hillbroom estate attorneys who is suing a fellow defendant for libel, slander, and defamation.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Barry Israel's partial summary judgment to his claim that Keith Waibel, the former trustee of Junior Larry Hillbroom, made defamatory statements per se to others and made defamatory statements negligently.

However, Manglona denied Israel's motion for summary judgment in his cross-claims against Waibel and also denied Israel's claim that Waibel made defamatory statements intentionally and with malice.

Manglona stated in her order that, while the court agrees with Israel that he is entitled to pre-

sumed damages as a matter of law, no evidence has been provided supporting any amount.

Regarding Israel's entitlement to special damages, the court disagrees with Israel's claim that the damages are undisputedly \$1,442,877.67. Rather, the question of presumed and/or special damages should be left for a jury to decide.

As for the \$400,000 being claimed by Israel, Manglona said he failed to establish traditional malice and to demonstrate entitlement as matter of law.

She said there is a reasonable dispute as to the amount of punitive damages owed and that issue should be left for a jury to decide.

Israel filed a motion for summary judgment for his cross-claims against Waibel for libel, slander, and defamation.


Israel also requested the

court to enter a judgment against Waibel and issue an award of \$1,442,877.67 and punitive damages in the amount of \$400,000.

Hillbroom sued his former attorneys, David Lujan and Israel, for legal malpractice, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and violations of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

According to the lawsuit, Israel and Lujan, who represented Hillbroom when he was a minor, secured \$90 million from the Larry Lee Hillblom estate on their client's behalf. When Hillbroom became an adult, he sued his former lawyers and trustee. Hillbroom claims that the defendants committed fraud.

In July 2020, Hillbroom dismissed Israel from the lawsuit pursuant to a settlement. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**




Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

Notice of Public Hearing

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 2PM
BECQ 3rd Floor Conference Room
Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, this public hearing will conducted via video conferencing through Google Meet (meeting code: pgf-wbht-yic or join via telephone by dialing 1 661-458-9709 PIN Code: 466 166 674#.


A. CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2020-X-048
Project: NEW HOPE QUARRY OPERATION
Applicant: Success International Corporation
Success International Corporation is proposing to operate the New Hope Quarry by producing manufactured sand, aggregates of different sizes, and limestone coral using various heavy equipment such a rock-crusher and a future batching plant facility. The quarry site is situated on leased public land identified as Lot No. 011 C 04, with 47,018 square meters of land. The applicant is also proposing to construct a 2-story building structure using two ocean freight cargo containers.

B. CRM Permit Amendment Application No. SMS-96-X-20-A1
Project: WINNERS COMMERCIAL FACILITIES
Applicant: P&A Corporation
P&A Corporation is amending its existing commercial operations to include additional services such as (1) roller skating arena; (2) commercial laundry facility; (3) guest house accommodations; and (4) shallow above-ground children's wading pool. The development is situated on a leased private property identified as Lot No. 550NEW-15, measuring about 12,000 square meters, more or less, in Afetnas, Saipan.


C. CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2016-X-088
Project: PHASE I AND PHASE II, ROUTE 33 BEACH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
Applicant: Department of Public Works
The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to commence the Phase I and Phase II Route 33 Beach Road project to alleviate traffic safety hazards and inconveniences by repairing, modifying, and improving road conditions. Phase I will be begin from Pacific Islands Club Beach Road to Beach Road-As Perdido Intersection Traffic Light. Phase II will begin from Beach Road-As Perdido Intersection Traffic Light to Atkins Kroll Toyota Intersection Traffic Light in Oleai, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the New Hope Quarry project, the Winners Commercial Facilities project, or the Route 33 Beach Road Improvement project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Divisio of Coastal Resources Management



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-028 Revision No.2

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi WWTP Clarifier in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have purchased this IFB before you do not have to repurchase but you would need to register with our office to receive a package.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier Revision No. 2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) November 17, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on November 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Western Knudsen, P.E., CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer and to CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician, Christie L. Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-003

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR WEST SAN JOSE HOMESTEAD (TINIAN) WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RFP-21-003, A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 9, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Brown tree snakes found on Guam's Cocos Island

HAGATÑA, Guam—For the first time, an invasive brown tree snake population has been found on Cocos Island, an 83.1-acre atoll located 1.5 miles off the southwest coast of Guam.

The brown tree snake is a major contributor to the loss of nine of 11 native forest birds and significant population declines of several native lizards, bats and other bird species in Guam. They now pose a threat to the wildlife of Cocos Island.

Guam's Department of Agriculture

Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources is working with partners to better understand how many brown tree snakes are on the island and the best way to remove them. "Thanks to the diligence of the members of the public who reported the brown tree snake sighting, we were able to quickly respond to the threat that the brown tree snake poses to the wildlife on Cocos Island," said DAWR Wildlife supervisor Diane Vice.

A fisherman reported po-

tential sightings of brown tree snakes to DAWR in September 2020. DAWR then worked with the U.S. Geological Survey's Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response Team to take quick action. If it were not for the careful attention and reporting of local residents, this population of snakes would remain unknown and its expansion unchecked. Surveys to better understand the number of brown tree snakes on the island are ongoing and the Rapid Response Team is also

capturing and removing any snakes they find. To date, four adult snakes capable of breeding, as well as five juveniles, have been removed. DAWR is working with USGS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services to develop a long-term plan for controlling and eradicating brown tree snakes on Cocos Island. These territorial and federal agencies, along with the private and territorial

landowners, have a long history of collaboration that will be vital to the successful eradication of brown tree snakes from Cocos Island.

Cocos Island is a special area of wildlife conservation for DAWR because it is home to the only wild population of the endangered ko'ko' (Guam rail) in Guam. One of the few remaining bird species endemic to Guam, ko'ko' were successfully introduced on the island in 2010 by DAWR to save the species from extinction in the wild. Like many native bird species, the ko'ko' was once abundant across Guam before the introduction of brown tree snakes contributed to their disappearance.

Other native wildlife have survived and thrived on the island, creating a natural home for animals that Guam residents and tourists enjoy. Cocos Island is a diversity hot spot for Mariana lizards, including the endangered Mariana

skink. The island also provides habitat for sãli (Micronesian starlings), fahang (brown noddy), chungie (white terns) and nesting beaches for endangered haggan (green sea turtles). The presence of invasive brown tree snakes could negatively impact all wildlife that call the island home. Many animals are prey for the snakes and their presence threatens Guam's endemic ko'ko' once again.

The Department of Agriculture is asking all visitors and workers to inspect vessels for snakes and other invasive species before leaving for Cocos Island. If you see a snake on locations other than Guam, report it immediately to the Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response Team in Guam at (671) 777-HISS (4477). Report any other invasive species, such as mice, rats, cats or dogs on Cocos Island to 488-Rail (7245). (PR)

» Agencies working to prevent further spread



A DONATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Saipan Unity Lions Club and Teen Unity Leo's Club present last Nov. 5, 2020, 50 school bags filled with school supplies to Oleai Elementary School. The staff and the school's principal, Jasylene Parico, will distribute the bags to 50 Oleai Elementary School students. The project was made possible through donations from business establishments and club members. This distribution was led by SULC president Alicia Barbo, Atoy Banting, and Leo president Vicky Ancheta.



Scheduled water service interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, from 8am to 4pm for customers in the areas of Kagman, Papago, Upper Dandan Homestead, San Vicente, and Obyan.


This will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, Hong Ye Construction, to install a gate valve and interconnect the new 8-inch transmission line to the existing Kumoi Papago transmission line on Kagman Road.

CUC would also like to advise its customers in the affect-


ed areas that they may experience intermittent water service from low pressure to no water during the duration of this project, which is expected to end in the early month of February 2021.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



PUBLIC NOTICE


Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*


- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. September 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting
 2. September 25, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
 - E. Correspondence
- II. Management Reports
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 - B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Old Business
 - A. CHCC Billing/Payment Update
 - B. Power Plant, DE5 and DE7 Update
 - C. Bill re CHCC Water/Wastewater Rates
 - D. Cost of Service Study Update
- V. New Business
 - A. Procurement
- VI. Public Comments**
- VII. Executive Session***
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

/s/
MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP21-BECQ/DEQ-011

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 09, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"SOIL SPECIALIST FOR THE 2021 NATIONAL WETLAND CONDITION ASSESSMENT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO **MR. LARRY MAURIN** AT larrymaurin@becq.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS NOVEMBER 25, 2020**. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **ELLI D. CABRERA**
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2021-002

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: November 17, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Vehicle Lease

Project package will be available on October 30, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For any inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before November 5th, 2020, no later than 10 a.m.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Frank Lee S.N. Borja
Acting-Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

Kilili congratulates President-elect Biden

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) issued the following congratulatory message to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris:

"On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, I congratulate President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on their hard-won and decisive victory.

"The largest-ever voter turnout and the largest-ever popular vote for Biden and Harris confirm that democra-

cy in America remains strong.

"For women, Asian Americans, and those of us whose parents were not citizens of this country, the election of Kamala Harris is particularly meaningful.

"During the eight years of the Obama administration I had numerous opportunities to talk informally with then-Vice President Biden about the Marianas and the aspirations of our people. He is an understanding and compassionate man; and I was an early endorser of his

presidential candidacy.

"I look forward to working in the U.S. House of Representatives over the next two years to advance the Biden-Harris agenda of controlling the pandemic, reviving the economy, continuing the fight against poverty, moving forward on racial justice, advancing equality for all, and addressing the threat of climate change.

"These are goals the people of the Marianas and Americans everywhere can come together to fully support." (PR)

ASNMC, SYP collaborate on 'Toys for Tots'

Officers of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, together with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Saipan Young Professionals, will be taking the lead in this year's "Toys for Tots" program, a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. "We plan to have every kid in the CNMI have a joy-filled holiday celebration come this December," ASNMC president Maia Pangelinan said. "The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on many families this year, and we ask our island community to band together to help those in need."

Last year, more than 2,100 toys were collected in the CNMI and close to 8,100 from Guam, all going to over 5,300 children in Guam and on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

"We are so happy to be partnering with ASNMC this year as we continue the Toys for Tots Campaign through the U.S. Marine Corps," said Saipan Young Professionals chair Shayne Villanueva. "Over the years, the campaign continues to be successful, thanks to the contributions of our business partners and community."

This year's partners include Bank of Guam, Calvo's Insurance, Latte Built, Lollipops, Pacifica Insurance, Bank of Saipan, Assurance Brokers, McDonald's, and Triple J and

its affiliates. ASNMC will be providing the donation boxes to all Toys for Tots partners. Those who are interested in becoming a partner can email saipantoystots@gmail.com for more information. Toys for Tots, a 73-year national charitable program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, provides happiness and hope to disadvantaged children during each Christmas holiday season through the gift of a new toy. Last year the program fulfilled the holiday hopes and dreams of 7.3 million children in 800 communities nationwide by distributing 18.6 million toys. Since 1947 over 265 million children have been assisted and 584 million toys distributed. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

Notice of Re-opening of the Distribution of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)-COVID Program Pre-Applications

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) wishes to announce the re-opening of the distribution of pre-applications of the ESG-COVID program made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As stated on the Office of the Governor's Press Release, dated July 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the CNMI a total allocation of \$1,090,630 in ESG-COVID funds to provide financial assistance for CNMI households, specifically for rental assistance, rental arrears, utility allowance, and security and utility deposits. The assistance period is for a total of (12) months and will be on a first come, first serve basis. NMHC has allocated 25% of the grant for the elderly and disabled population. The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)-COVID program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. furloughed, reduction of hours, living in substandard conditions which poses an increased risk of exposure to the disease, etc.)
- Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Must meet the income limits (less than 50% of the area median income). See FY 2020 HUD income limits below
- Must be literally homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and have no other housing options

Application Steps

- Pick up a pre-application at the NMHC Offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota or print an application made available on the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net.
Link: https://nmhc.gov.net/resources/files/2020%20ESG%20Pre-application%20V2%20updated%2006_29_20.pdf
- Once the pre-application is completed and submitted to the NMHC Offices (you may submit at the front office or in the Drop Box located in front of the building), the case workers will assess the pre-application and determine whether the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, the case worker will schedule an appointment and immediately notify the applicant on the date and time of intake. If an applicant is deemed ineligible, a notification will be sent to the applicant.
- The case worker will inform the eligible applicant of the next steps once the application process has been completed.

If you have already applied for the ESG-COVID program, the NMHC case workers are currently assessing your pre-applications and you will be contacted for the next steps. On August 21, 2020, NMHC stopped taking pre-applications in order to conduct the screening of a significant number of pre-applications and also to conduct case management. **NMHC is reopening the pre-application process. You may pick up an HESG pre-application at the NMHC, Saipan Central Office, Rota Field Office, and Tinian Field office starting October 28, 2020. The distribution of pre-applications will end on November 30, 2020.** Should you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, Tricia Tenorio, Planner, or Sweetielyn Sokau, Planning Assistant, at the 234-6866/7689/9447.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real properties will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	006 H 07	Carmen Avenue/Bernardo Street, CK, Saipan	MINIMUM BID:	\$80,000.00
LOT NO.:	005 I 527	Ahu Dr., Kobleville, Saipan	MINIMUM BID:	\$60,000.00
LOT NO.:	011 G 608	Chopak Dr., Kagman III, Saipan	MINIMUM BID:	\$59,000.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on November 10, 2020, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid.** The minimum acceptable bid for purchase/lease for each property shall be as listed above.
- Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law(s) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021.
- Deposit/Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). In lieu of a deposit, NMHC will accept a document from a financial institution stating that the bidder has a pre-approved loan with the amount sufficient to cover the purchase price. The remaining balance or total purchase price amount will be due within thirty (30) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within thirty (30) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned properties will automatically revert to NMHC. Failure to make payment of the purchase price within thirty (30) calendar days will result in the termination of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned properties and will revert to NMHC.
 - Credit card payments totaling \$1,000.00 USD, or more, will be charged an additional three percent (3%) fee to recover merchant credit card service fees. This fee does not apply to "debit" card payments.
- Change of Terms.** NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
- Lease With Option to Purchase.** NMHC shall give notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be five (5) years at an interest rate of 6 percent of the amount due (bid price less deposit).
 - A lease with option to purchase agreement will be executed upon receipt of a deposit of at least ten percent (10%) of the bid or offer price on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard) and shall include the following terms:
 - For move-in ready properties, no alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
 - Lessee shall insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
 - Lessee shall be responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
 - Lease shall not be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
 - Failure to make full payment of the bid or offer price within the specified time period will result in the forfeiture by the bidder/lessee of the deposit and all payments received and in the eventual termination of the bidder's rights, title and interest including the termination of the lease with option to purchase agreement in any of the aforementioned properties and will revert to NMHC.
 - Failure to make a deposit within the specified time will result in the termination of any and all of the bidder's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned properties and will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar years 2020 and 2021. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

- Valid CNMI Business License
- Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
- 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
- 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
- Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
- Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
- Workmen's Compensation Policy
- Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
- A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
- At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
- List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY - MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
- Company background
- Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
- Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)
- Registration on the System for Award Management (SAM) official U.S. Government website and provide DUNS (number).

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hey, America, cool off and let elections officials count the votes

Two fundamental elements of American society are on display this week: voting and protesting. Unfortunately, both those expressions of democracy have veered off track in disturbing ways.

This election has, to state the obvious, been unusually fraught. It's a referendum on one of the most divisive presidents in memory, conducted during a pandemic among a populace distressingly split over issues of race, class and geography at a time of great distrust of essential institutions, beginning with the government itself.

Now, days after the Election Day that capped more than a month of voting in some states, the nation still does not know the outcome. That in itself is neither good nor bad (though definitely frustrating). But President Donald Trump and his advocates, who already sought to subvert the ability of Americans in key precincts and states to exercise their civic duty, are pursuing legal challenges that, among other aims, would stop officials in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia and Nevada from counting votes.

We believe in the right to turn to the courts to redress a grievance or correct a wrong, but here Trump and his army of lawyers are trying to use the courts to undercut democracy itself. We hope judges recognize gamesmanship when they see it and resist interfering in situations that do not call for it.

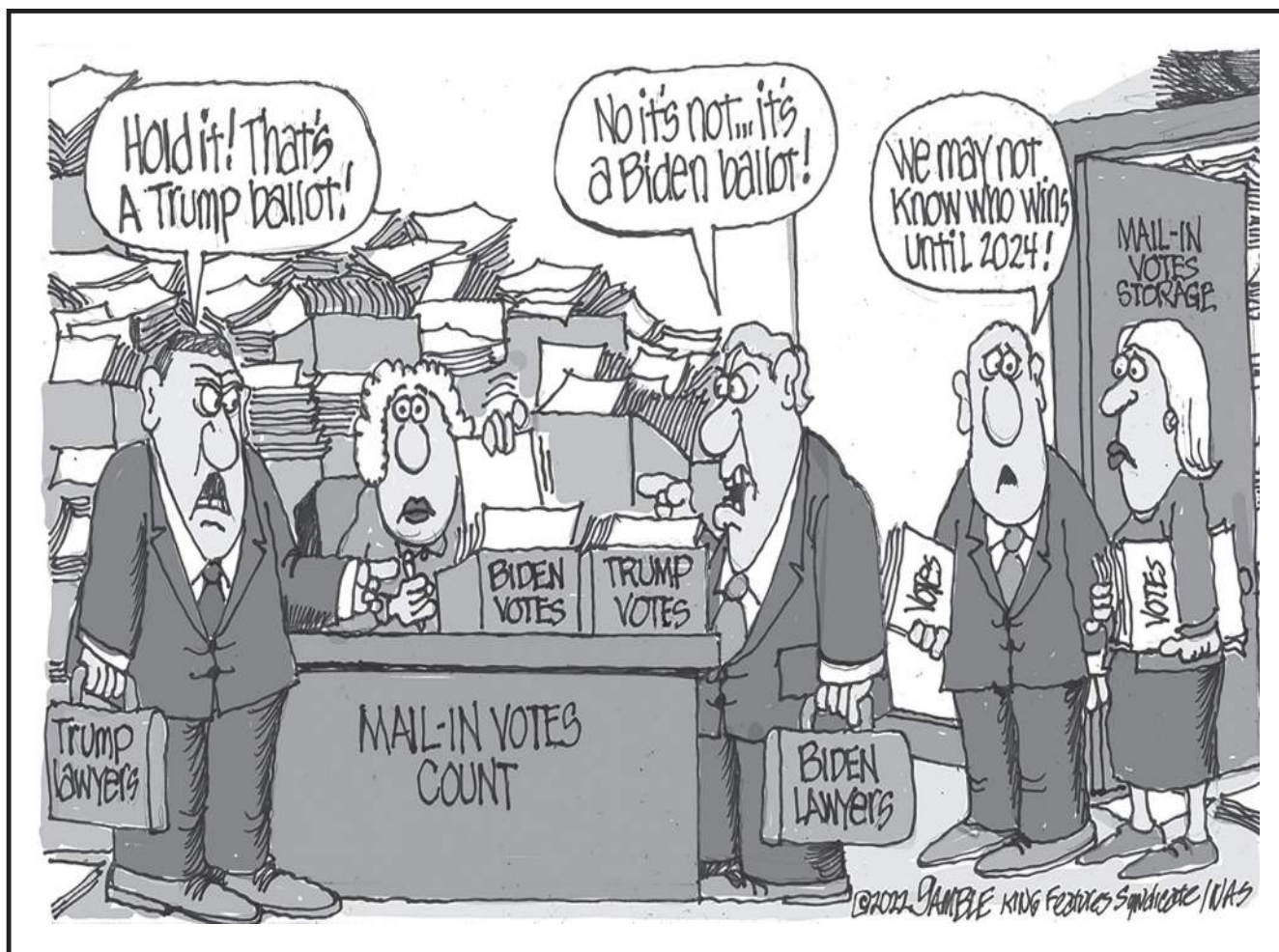
Meanwhile, public distress over Trump's verbal assault on the voting process has added fresh energy to monthslong protests—including in Los Angeles—over racial injustice that were touched off by high-profile shootings of Black people by police. Some of those protests again spun off acts of vandalism in Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere Wednesday night, an unacceptable mutation of our right to peacefully gather and make our voices heard.

And in response to the slow vote count, Trump supporters have been mobilizing. In some places they have acted within their rights and American tradition, such as gathering peacefully outside a vote-count site in Las Vegas. But elsewhere things got dicier. Trump supporters besieged a counting center in Detroit on Wednesday demanding access to watch the count (there were already a few hundred observers inside the facility) and another one in Phoenix where a few protesters openly carried firearms, an unacceptable act of intimidation in that context.

Remember, Trump earlier this year cheered on armed protesters who entered the state Capitol in Lansing, Michigan, to protest COVID-19 restrictions and a state mask mandate, tweeting, "Liberate Michigan!" And he mocked Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer after federal agents disrupted an alleged plot by self-styled anti-government militia members to kidnap her and try her on charges of treason.

Whitmer later argued, rightly, that Trump's words made a tense situation worse and endangered elected figures in that state. And introducing firearms into moments of public contention is a

See AMERICA on Next Page



Yes, Donald Trump has Black and Latino supporters. Democrats can learn from it

Could this be the election that ends the "Latino vote"? No, I'm not talking about actual voters. I'm talking about the way many of us routinely talk or write about the "Latino vote" or "Hispanic vote" in the same way that we news and opinion workers typically talk about the "Black vote."

The confusion comes in when we invest more of a sense of tribal unity in our racial-ethnic labels than the labels deserve.

Increasingly, that leads to old stereotypes being replaced by new ones that defy reality.

For example, most African Americans share an ancestry in slavery, the Great Migration, the civil rights era and other key historical turning points that shape our political attitudes today.

The term "Hispanic Americans," like Asian Americans, tries to include a wide range of nationalities and political ancestries.

The folly of those broad categories emerges as they collide with the reality of ethno-surprises such as revealed by exit polling in the latest presidential election.

For example, contrary to widely held expectations—including some of my own—Latino voters did not rise up en masse or with near-unanimity against a president who separated Central American refugee families, disrespected Mexicans as "rapists," tossed paper towels to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Ricans and insists that we're "rounding the corner" on a coronavirus pandemic that continues disproportionately to victimize Black and Latino Americans.

Instead, about a third of Latino voters supported Trump, according to exit polls by the AP's VoteCast, conducted with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, which is about the same Hispanic percentage that Republican candidates have received in other recent presidential races.

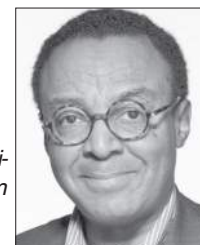
Less dramatic but still significant was Trump's building his Black support to double digits, a first for a Republican candidate since President George H.W. Bush in the 1980s. Exit polls by Edison Research for the National Election Pool found 18% of Black men voted for Trump and 8% of Black women did the same.

Trump fared less well in traditionally Democratic Illinois, winning only 5% of the Black vote and 23% of Latinos, according to AP's VoteCast.

Contrast that with pivotal Florida, where South Florida's historically conservative Cuban American community has been joined by Venezuelans and other escapees from Latin American unrest. Trump's campaign focused on their outrage over the idea of Democratic "socialism" and, helped along by some late aid to Puerto Ricans in central Florida, apparently paid off in a state so unpredictable that a one- or two-point swing is called a "landslide."

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.



In short, labels like "Black vote" and "Latino vote" can blur our vision to a world's worth of diversity.

Biden's campaign seemed sometimes to discover that the hard way.

Remember, for example, when he was questioned sternly by a Black student in a televised Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, town hall in October as to what he had to offer young Black voters "besides 'you ain't Black.'"

That was a reference to Biden's breathtaking gaffe on Charlamagne Tha God's "The Breakfast Club" program when he said in a peculiar parting shot, "If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump, then you ain't Black."

Trumpers eagerly helped that unforced error to go viral, along with Biden's earlier tough-on-crime positions, as evidence of Democrats' taking Black voters for granted.

The remark was particularly damaging in opening up a generational divide with young Black male voters, a group with which Trump in his own way had been making cultural inroads since the 1990s. After his Atlantic City casinos collapsed along with his creditworthiness on Wall Street, Trump cozied up to the prospering hip-hop community, including P Diddy and other rap stars, dozens of whom name-checked him in their lyrics as an iconic image of gaudy affluence and swagger.

Years later, we have seen this relationship revived in his dialogues with Kanye West and Ice Cube, among others who endorsed his "Platinum Plan" for Black American economic development.

Imagine how well Trump might have done as a candidate if he had started that dialogue earlier.

Labels like "Black vote" and "Latino vote" can be helpful in understanding group dynamics, but don't get carried away. As I've often said, racial-ethnic communities have a variety of people, many of whom share conservative and Republican values. Don't shortchange people today who could provide your margin of victory tomorrow.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Happy birthday, Marines!

By GREG BORJA

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nov. 10, 2020, marks the 245th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Happy birthday to my fellow CNMI Devil Dogs!

Nov. 11, 2020, is Veterans Day. Happy Veterans Day to my fellow service members.

Veterans Day's origins date back to the ending of World War I, when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11, 1919, as Armistice Day. He said in his commemoration speech, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory..." In 1954, President

Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Veterans Day Proclamation honoring American veterans of all wars. (va.gov)

American service members have made sacrifices throughout the history of the United States and laws have been created to protect and support our service members and veterans who have been injured while serving our country. In 1918 the Soldiers Rehabilitation Act was created to provide services for vocational rehabilitation of veterans who became disabled during World War I. Through the years this law has been changed and improved to ensure veterans with physical disabilities were eligible for services. The law was expanded to also provide services to those with mental health needs and to civilians.

The Soldiers Rehabilitation Act evolved to a point where in 1973, the Rehabilitation Act was created to address equal access of people with disabilities through the removal of architectural, employment,

and transportation barriers. Also included in this law is Section 504, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of physical and mental disabilities in programs receiving federal funds.

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. is the CNMI designated organization established to "Protect the Civil, Legal, and Human Rights of people with disabilities." We use laws like the Rehabilitation Act to ensure people with disabilities in our community, including our veterans with disabilities, are free of discrimination based on their disability.

For more information about protection of your rights, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Greg Borja is program manager at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

So, what happened with the polling?

While the next president of the United States remains unknown as of Thursday evening, there is clearly one big loser: the pollsters, most of whom were touting the high likelihood of a Joe Biden blowout. So how did they get it so wrong? In 2016, I predicted that against all odds Donald Trump would win the presidential election. A month ago, I predicted that his reelection race would be won by a razor-thin margin on either side. Whether you are happy or not about the results, there was a very real chance of Trump winning a second term.

So, back to the main question: How were all the pollsters so wrong, again, even after the soul searching and methodological recalibrating that followed 2016?

The first answer is that public opinion researchers haven't learned from their past mistakes.

First, pollsters almost surely underestimated what is called a "nonresponse bias," which is a fancy term for saying that the voters who participated in the surveys had different opinions than those who did participate—i.e., either Trump voters weren't contacted, refused to respond or chose not to answer truthfully. A Washington Post investigation from 2016 showed that large number of voters were reluctant to answer truthfully, specifically if they planned to vote for Trump. This shouldn't be surprising giving the vitriol in our current political climate. To anyone who doesn't think shy voters, or scared voters, or voters who don't want to play it straight with pollsters for whatever reason, exist,

you are living in a bubble.

Second, there is one polling prediction device that is regularly overlooked and misunderstood: approval ratings. A quick glance would show you that Trump has the lowest average approval rating in history at only 41%. The average for reelected presidents since 1980 is 54.5%—almost 14 percentage points higher! Since recording approval ratings began, every reelected president has had over a 50% approval rating when reelected or an upward trend over 30 days before the election.

This would clearly suggest that Trump didn't have a chance of winning—but there was a clear asterisk.

As I discussed in 2019 and last month, we should care less about the raw numbers than about the trend; we can't compare Trump's approval ratings to past presidents, we have to compare the highs and lows over time. In that case, Trump has the smallest difference in spread ever recorded. In other words, Trump had what is arguably the strongest base in recent history. Furthermore, a basic statistical analysis shows that Trump trended toward higher and higher approval ratings since he took office—only gaining in his base.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

About the will of the people and those who endeavor to uphold its goodness

"The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government, and to protect its free expression should be our first object."

—Thomas Jefferson

While Donald Trump, the devious President, continues to preemptively suffocate the will of the people from being expressed, we here in the CNMI have held sacred the freely expressed will of our citizens in any election. Political campaigns often become personal and enterprising, but in the end the will of the people is always the honorable victor.

Our Commonwealth is relatively a young democracy, but we learned early on in our political development that when citizens make their choices freely and without coercion in an election, it must and should be protected. While election processes, with its imperfect articulations, have been challenged in court in the past, the expressed will of our citizens always prevailed.

The expressed will of our citizens during last Tuesday's election prevailed and is now history. Our people have accepted the results, so did those candidates who sought the voters' consent, no matter what the election outcome was, including both political parties. Though less than 70% of our voting population came out and cast their vote for their choice of candidates, the Democratic Party was humbly encouraged by the enthusiasm of our citizens who came out and exercised their right to vote. Further, the party is particularly filled with gratefulness and gratitude to hundreds of government employees who put the security of their employment at risk by casting their vote for change. Putting at risk an element of one's

life security is nothing short of bravery but, more fundamentally, it is the personification of the goodness of the will of the people.

We are extremely proud of our candidates in how they presented themselves and their ideas, for public scrutiny on their worthiness for public office. Of the 19 candidates, including the Senate bet running for office, six are incumbents and 13 are strangers to politics. The public have witnessed a collection of mothers, wives, and single professional subject themselves to the grueling process of running for public service. Nine women ran under a political party, which made it historically unprecedented. I am extremely fortunate to be part of their amazing political journey because not only were they determined and focused on the goodness of our citizens but their commitment to improve the institution from which that political power is exercised.

What a remarkable display of a group of people bonding together, for the first time, on their common interest to try and change the way our government treats its citizens. They worked tirelessly hard, even under threat of physical harm, to earn the trust and consent of the governed. They realize that once elected the power of their office is nothing else, but what is only derivative, transferred and committed to them in trust from the people.

When history is written about this election, which started off on Jan. 10 of this year, the men and women, together with the political party they chose to run under, will be filled with personal anecdotes and interesting elements of poetry. This is just one more historical accomplishment to be included in the "trail-blazing" history of the Democratic Party since its incorporation back in 1958 as the Popular Party.

So, on behalf of these brave men and women on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, their families, committees, supporters, and the members of the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands, I would like to extend our humble and sincerest thank you to the people of the Commonwealth, including our off-island voters, for your trust in placing your confidence in the candidates of the Democratic Party.

My final thought to our elected candidates is taken from Romans 12:3 "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgement, according to the measure of faith God has given you."

Daniel O. Quitugua
Kannat Tabla, Saipan



By LIBERTY VITTERT
New York Daily News

Liberty Vittert is a professor of the practice of data science at the Olin Business School at the Washington University in St. Louis and the feature editor of the Harvard Data Science Review.

Third, pollsters have not gotten any better at estimating the margin of error in their polling according to a piece out of the Harvard Data Science Review last week. Pollsters don't ask every American for their vote decision, but instead they ask a smaller portion of the population and infer from that what the entire population is going to do. That means there is inevitably plus or minus error in their predictions.

Overall, not a single one of these three issues was enough to push the election to Trump, but combined, they threw off pollsters' models. Again.

AMERICA

From Page 8

recipe for disaster, which the nation saw play out with shooting deaths in Wisconsin and Oregon during protests over police violence against Black citizens and broader issues of systemic racism.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has said that while he is confident that his campaign will win, he will wait for the process to play out (though his team, too, has built a legal brigade). But on Twitter, Trump absurdly claimed Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina "for electoral purposes" (whatever that means), adding, "we hereby claim the State of Michigan if, in fact, there was a large number of secretly dumped ballots as has been widely reported!" That magisterial declaration drew a warning label from Twitter: "Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process." Might be misleading?

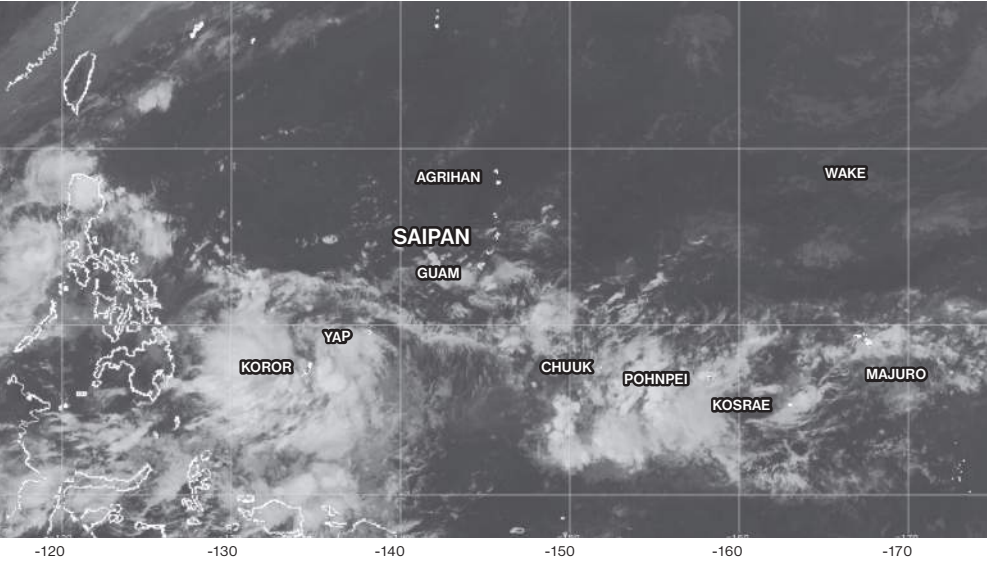
And now the U.S. Justice Department—which under Attorney General William Barr has morphed into part of Trump's personal legal team—has informed its attorneys scattered around the country that they have the authority to send armed federal agents to state and county ballot-counting sites to investigate potential voter fraud, a favorite Trump bugaboo that, of course, is not grounded in reality. So far there's no indication that the government has deployed those agents, and we urge it to resist such a blatant act of intimidation.

This escalation of domestic tensions needs to end. Saner heads must prevail even if the president cannot, once again, control his impulses to goad, exaggerate and destabilize. Our history of peaceful transfers of power must also include a peaceful embrace of the right to vote, and that includes letting elections officials do their jobs and tally the results in peace. Democracy under the threat of violence is hardly democracy at all.

(c) 2020 Los Angeles Times

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:15 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows an upper-level low passing south of Guam waters this morning, with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Rota southward. Guam weather radar refines this to show that most of the showers and thunderstorms are anywhere from just south of Guam waters to well south of Guam waters, with occasional forays into Guam waters and near Guam. The buoys reveal 5 to 7 foot combined seas which are composed mainly of 5 to 7 foot east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:04 AM	1:13 PM	-
Tuesday	1:02 AM	1:59 PM	-
Wednesday	1:59 AM	2:44 PM	-
Thursday	2:57 AM	3:28 PM	-
Friday	3:56 AM	4:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 55°			
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 39°			
Hong Kong	Sunny	81° / 73°			
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°			
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 55°			
Manila	Showers	88° / 79°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°			
Osaka	Sunny	63° / 45°			
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 39°			
Busan	Sunny	66° / 54°			
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°			
Salem	Thunderstorm	72° / 60°			
San Francisco	Rain	62° / 53°			
Seoul	Sunny	61° / 43°			
Tokyo	Windy	64° / 48°			
Washington, DC	Cloudy	52° / 41°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:01 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.34	
7:43 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.03	
3:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74	
9:37 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Hanamitsu Hotel Spa pivots toward residents



PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

Hanamitsu Hotel Spa is located at the Paseo de Marianas in the heart of Garapan, a stone's throw away from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and across Kinpachi Restaurant and ABC Store.

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hanamitsu Hotel Spa is reinventing itself as place where residents can enjoy a relaxing

massage after a stressful and busy day at work.

Tracy Yang, who manages the spa, said they have 10 masseuses who are well versed in traditional massages, with

majority of them having more than six years of experience.

Currently, Hanamitsu Hotel Spa is offering special promotions, including a 2 1/2-hour spa package for \$80 that will



Hanamitsu Hotel Spa is the largest Bali-style spa on Saipan with a spacious relaxing area in the ground floor and four spa suits, each with massage beds, rest chairs, shower room, restroom, and also spa facility on the second floor.



Hanamitsu Hotel Spa has 10 masseuses who are well versed in traditional massages, with majority of them having more than six years of experience.

pamper you with a foot spa and massage, your choice of body massage, body treatment or facial, and a flower bath.

Their \$25-an-hour body massage or facial treatment is still available and ditto for their \$20 pedicure, calluses cleaning, or coloring packages.

Aside from their skilled masseuses, Hanamitsu Hotel Spa has also become a landmark of sorts in Garapan and Paseo de Marianas for its Bali-style architecture that immediately brings to mind the Indonesian tourist hotspot and its serene aura.

**For more information
or to book a massage,
call (670) 788-6658**

"We are the biggest Bali-style spa on Saipan. We have a spacious relaxing area in the ground floor and on the second floor we have four spa suits, each with massage beds, rest chairs, shower room, restroom, and also spa facility. You will enjoy a true relaxing spa experience here at Hanamitsu," said Yang.

When asked about Hanamitsu Hotel Spa's most popular massages, Yang said customers seem to enjoy their back pain relief sports massage, aromatherapy massage, Thai massage, and hot

stone massage.

Hanamitsu Hotel Spa first opened in August 2010 and initially catered mostly to tourists—Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese. Before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all flights from the CNMI's tourist markets, their clientele was made up of 80%-95% off-islands customers, Yang said.

To comply with health directives and help curb the spread of the coronavirus and due to the continued lack of tourists, Yang said their business closed their doors last March 20 and only reopened last June 1. "We had to close the spa at the beginning of the pandemic. Since most of our customers are tourists before the pandemic, after we reopened the business, we have seen a huge decline in customers since there are no tourists. We have a lot of longtime local customers before, and now we are trying to have more local friends try our massages."

Since reopening, Yang said they've seen a steady flow of 10 or more resident customers a day.

As far as following the guidelines of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, Yang said all customers and staff need to have their temperatures checked before entering the facility, write their names and telephone numbers for contact tracing, wear face masks all time, use hand sanitizers placed at the entrance, and strictly follow the directional arrows inside.

Hanamitsu Hotel Spa is located at the Paseo de Marianas in the heart of Garapan, a stone's throw away from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and across Kinpachi Restaurant and ABC Store. Customer parking is located at the back besides GIG Discotheque. For more information or to book a massage, call (670) 788-6658 or contact them through their Facebook page.

Without Ginsburg, high court support for health law in doubt

WASHINGTON (AP)—Until six weeks ago, defenders of the Affordable Care Act could take comfort in some simple math. Five Supreme Court justices who had twice preserved the Obama-era health care law remained on the bench and seemed unlikely votes to dismantle it.

But Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death in mid-September and her replacement by Amy Coney Barrett barely a month later have altered the equation as the court prepares to hear arguments Tuesday in the third major legal challenge in the law's 10-year existence.

Republican attorneys general in 18 states, backed by the Trump administration, are arguing that the whole law should be struck down because of a change made by the Republican-controlled Congress in 2017 that reduced the penalty for not having health insurance to zero.

A court ruling invalidating the entire law would threaten coverage for more than 23 million people. It would wipe away protections for people with preexisting medical conditions, subsidized insurance premiums that make coverage affordable for millions of Americans and an expansion of the Medicaid program that

is available to low-income people in most states.

"No portion of the ACA is severable from the mandate," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton told the court in a written filing. The Republicans are pressing this position even though congressional efforts to repeal the entire law have failed, including in July 2017 when then-Arizona Sen. John McCain delivered a dramatic thumbs-down vote to a repeal effort by fellow Republicans.

Barrett is one of three appointees of President Donald Trump who will be weighing the latest legal attack on the law popularly known as "Obamacare." Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh are the others. It's their first time hearing a major case over the health law as justices, although Kavanaugh took part in the first round of suits over it when he was a federal appeals court judge.

Of the other justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor have voted to uphold the law. Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas have voted for strike it all down.

The case is being argued at an unusual moment, a week after the presidential election, with Democrat Joe

Biden on the cusp of winning the White House. Control of the Senate also is hanging in the balance.

The political environment aside, the practical effects of the repeal of the tax penalty have surprised many health care policy experts. They predicted that getting rid of the penalty would lead over time to several million people dropping coverage, mostly healthier enrollees, and as a result, premiums for the law's subsidized private insurance would rise because remaining customers would tend to be in poorer health.

But that hasn't happened—at least not yet.

Enrollment in the law's insurance markets stayed relatively stable at more than 11 million people, even after the effective date of the penalty's elimination in 2019. According to the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, enrollment dropped by about 300,000 people from 2018 to 2019. Kaiser estimates 11.4 million people have coverage this year.

Enrollment has fallen by more than 1 million people in the Trump years, but most of that happened before the penalty was repealed, not after.

Premiums have also remained stable since the penalty was repealed.

BOH now accepting grant applications for small businesses on Saipan

Bank of Hawaii is now accepting applications for the I Kinometi Para I Kumunidat I Islâ-ta Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant for projects that stimulate small business development and economic activity in Saipan. Small business owners with a successful track record in business operation or management and who have not yet been a recipient of the grant are invited to submit applications by Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. Five grants up to \$5,000

each will be awarded.

Bank of Hawaii established the grant program in 2012 to promote new businesses and to encourage existing small businesses on the island of Saipan to expand.

Grant awardees are expected to report to the bank on how the grant has made a difference to their business and the community by Friday, Feb. 26, 2021.

Applications are available here or by contacting either the Pacific Islands Small Business

Development Center at <http://www.pacificsbdc.com/locations/cwwwnmi-sbdc>, Bank of Hawaii's Gualo Rai Branch or our Gualo Rai Branch Manager Rose Sumor at Rose.Sumor@boh.com or (670) 237-2983. Applications should be submitted to: Branch Manager Rose Sumor via email at Rose.Sumor@boh.com or by regular mail to Bank of Hawaii, Springs Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan MP 96950 or PO Box 500566, Saipan MP 96950. **(PR)**

Nation

Joe Biden: Stumbles, tragedies and, now, delayed triumph

By **BILL BARROW**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Days before he left the White House in 2017, President Barack Obama surprised Joe Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, declaring his septuagenarian, white-haired lieutenant “the best vice president America’s ever had,” a “lion of American history.”

The tribute marked the presumed end of a long public life that put Biden in the orbit of the Oval Office for 45 years — yet, through a combination of family and personal tragedy, his own political missteps and sheer bad timing, had never allowed him to sit behind the Resolute Desk himself.

It turns out the pinnacle would not elude Biden after all. His moment just hadn’t yet arrived.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., 77, was elected Saturday as the 46th president of the United States, defeating President Donald Trump in an election that played out against the backdrop of a pandemic, its economic fallout and a national reckoning on racism. He becomes the oldest president-elect and brings with him a history-making vice president-elect in Kamala Harris, the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to win the nation’s second-highest office.



AP
In this June 11, 2020, file photo Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden smiles while speaking during a roundtable on economic reopening with community members in Philadelphia.

There are no sure paths to a post held by only 44 men in more than two centuries, but Biden’s is among the most unlikely — even for a man who had aspired to the job for more than three decades, twice running unsuccessfully as a sitting senator and passing on a third bid to try to succeed Obama four years ago.

The president-elect’s allies, though, say it is that delayed, circuitous route that prepared

him for 2020, when he could finally offer himself not just as another senator or governor with 10-point plans and out-sized ambition. Instead, from his launch on April 25, 2019, Biden sold himself as the experienced, empathetic elder statesman particularly suited to defeat a “dangerous” and “divisive” president and then “restore the soul of the nation” in Trump’s wake.

“A lot of people dismissed

it,” said Karen Finney, a top aide to nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016. “But when I saw his opening speech, talking about the fight for the soul of the country, I said, ‘He gets it.’ That’s what a president does. A president looks around the country and understands what’s happening.”

Biden, she said, “met the moment.”

His victory, though, did not come with the usual trappings.

He did not bring along a clear Democratic Senate majority, and several Democratic House candidates lost, raising the prospect of a closely divided government likely to test his promise of bipartisanship. State legislatures also did not flip even as Biden was winning the popular vote by about 5 percentage points.

In his victory address Saturday in his adopted hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden acknowledge the tensions that surely will linger. But he urged Americans to “see each other again, listen to each other again” and “let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now.”

Biden first joined a Democratic primary race shaped by nearly two dozen rivals—most considerably younger—already deep into an ideological fight over issues from universal health care to taxation of billionaires. Biden took an open lane, settling where he spent his 36 years in the Senate: a mainstream liberal with an establishment, deal-making core. But his visceral, emotional appeal transcended party identity.

When he warned that reelecting Trump “would forever alter the character” of America, Biden was drawing on life and political experience to tell his fellow Democrats they were having a premature debate. In his estimate, they were arguing over where the metaphorical train should go when, in fact, the train was—and remains—off the rails.

Biden was the presumed

Race to 270

Joe Biden has been elected the 46th president.

Donald Trump
Electoral votes: 214

Joe Biden
Electoral votes: 290



■ Conn. ■ R.I. ■ Del. ■ D.C.

Note: As of 12:30 p.m. Eastern, Nov. 7
Source: AP, TNS Photo Service
Graphic: Tribune News Service

front-runner he hadn’t been in 1987, when his first White House bid ended embarrassingly with a plagiarized speech; or in 2008, when he was trounced in the Iowa caucuses by Obama and others; or even in 2016, when the combination of his son Beau’s death in 2015 and Obama’s behind-the-scenes support for Clinton forced him to pass on the race.

Yet Biden was a wobbly 2020 favorite. He was well-regarded, even beloved as his party’s “Uncle Joe,” a loyal deputy to Obama, but he faced a river of criticism as too old, too moderate, too white, too wistful, too senatorial.

He was not the same figure who’d first gone to Iowa in the 1988 cycle as a young star in his party, a gifted orator whose booming speeches could fill a room while at the same time making a connection with the legacies of the Democratic coalition Franklin Roosevelt built.

Though he eventually built out a policy agenda for an ambitious presidency, there was no signature proposal for a grand program like “Medicare for All.” Biden emphasized more personal traits.

His empathy—traced to a debilitating childhood stutter, a 1972 car crash that killed his first wife and infant daughter weeks after his election to the Senate, and then Beau’s death as an adult—wasn’t something he could easily marshal on a crowded debate stage.

Recalling decades on Capitol Hill meant reminiscing about the days of a Senate that still included old Southern segregationists, and it invited scrutiny of his votes for criminal justice laws, trade and tax deals, and war resolutions that are anathema to younger Democrats.

‘This isn’t over!’: Trump supporters refuse to accept defeat

By **ANITA SNOW, DAVID GOLDMAN and LISA MARIE PANE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chanting “This isn’t over!” and “Stop the steal,” supporters of President Donald Trump protested at state capitols across the country Saturday, refusing to accept defeat and echoing Trump’s unsubstantiated allegations that the Democrats won by fraud.

From Atlanta and Tallahassee to Austin, Bismarck, Boise and Phoenix, crowds ranging in size from a few dozen to a few thousand—some of them openly carrying guns—decried the news of Joe Biden’s victory after more than three suspense-filled days of vote-counting put the Democrat over the top. Skirmishes broke out in some cities.

In Atlanta, outside the state Capitol in the longtime Republican stronghold of Georgia, chants of “Lock him up!” rang out among an estimated 1,000 Trump supporters. Oth-

ers chanted, “This isn’t over! This isn’t over!” and “Fake news!” The streets were awash with American flags and Trump banners.

No immediate violence was reported, though at one point, police moved to separate Trump opponents from supporters. Biden held a slim lead in Georgia, which hasn’t gone for a Democrat since 1992.

Jordan Kelley, a 29-year-old from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, drove three-plus hours to Atlanta to attend the pro-Trump rally.

“There’s election fraud going on here,” said Kelley, claiming that voters in Georgia, a state with a GOP governor and secretary of state, had improperly counted the ballots to put Biden ahead. “Even though I live in Tennessee, I’m an American, and I want to make sure Americans have a voice in the election.”

He planned to make the 10-hour trip to Washington next week to demonstrate on the steps of the Supreme Court,

where Trump and his lawyers have vowed to eventually make his case.

Underscoring the hard feelings on both sides of the nation’s deep political divide, anti-Trump protesters in Washington booed, yelled obscenities, shouted “Loser! Loser!” and gave the finger to Trump’s motorcade as the president returned to the White House from a golf outing Saturday.

Two signs posted in front of Trump’s Washington hotel read “Don’t be a sore loser” and “Face Reality.”

For his part, Biden pleaded for unity and reconciliation in a televised address Saturday night, saying it is time for Americans to “put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature” and “stop treating our opponents like enemies.”

“Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now,” he said.

Contrary to the claims of Trump supporters, there has been no evidence of any se-

rious vote fraud. And some Republican elected officials around the country began to distance themselves from Trump and urge him to accept the outcome gracefully.

The utter rejection of Biden as the legitimate president by Trump and his supporters appears to represent something new in American political history, said Barbara Perry, presidential studies director at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.

“We typically haven’t had a leader who loses the presidency who then tells his followers, ‘This is false. This has been stolen from us,’” Perry said. “Incumbent presidents have been mad, so mad they didn’t go to the inauguration, but not like this, where they are leading those people to say this is fraudulent.”

A couple of thousand Trump supporters gathered at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg. Pennsylvania played a crucial role in Biden’s victory.

Asia

Malaysia expands virus measures to more areas

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's government said Saturday that it will expand movement restrictions to most parts of the country, with coronavirus cases nearly tripling over the past month.

Another 1,168 new cases were reported Saturday, bringing Malaysia's total tally to 39,357—compared to just 13,993 a month ago.

Senior Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said all of peninsula Malaysia except for three states will be placed under a conditional movement control order from Monday until Dec. 6. He said the move will help curb the virus spread and allow targeted screening to be done.

The restrictions have been in effect since Oct. 14 in the country's biggest city, Kuala Lumpur, the administrative capital, Putrajaya, and the richest state, Selangor.

Malaysia emerged from a three-month lockdown in June, and the fresh outbreak was linked to an election in Sabah state on Borneo island. Restrictions have also been imposed in Sabah.

Under the order, schools and all sports, religious and social events are halted, but businesses can operate as usual with strict measures. Inter-district movement is banned and only two people from a household are allowed out to buy groceries.

Suu Kyi party set to win Myanmar vote with little opposition

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Voting was underway in Myanmar's elections on Sunday, with the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi heavily favored to retain power it had wrestled from the powerful military five years ago.

More than 90 parties are competing for seats in the lower and upper houses of Parliament, while there are also elections at the state and regional levels.

With the opposition in disarray, Suu Kyi remains Myanmar's most popular politician. But her government has fallen short of expectations, with economic growth doing little to alleviate widespread poverty and a failure to ease tensions among the country's fractious ethnic groups.

There are more than 37 million people eligible to vote, including 5 million first-timers. Fear of the coronavirus and

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Health authorities in Thailand on Saturday confirmed a new case of local transmission of the coronavirus, one of only a handful discovered in recent months. The Department of Disease Control identified the new case as a 37-year-old Indian man working as a waiter in the southern province of Krabi. It said he tested positive for the disease when he applied Wednesday to have his work permit renewed. Krabi is a province on the Andaman Sea that is normally popular with tourists, though Thailand was completely shut to foreign tourists from early April until last month. The country has confirmed a total of 3,830 coronavirus cases, including 60 deaths.

■ Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has announced that a Cambodian bodyguard for Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto has tested positive for the coronavirus. Szijarto tested positive upon arrival in Thailand on Tuesday after his Cambodia visit. He was placed in quarantine before leaving for Hungary on Wednesday, and all his meetings in Bangkok were canceled. Hun Sen said Saturday that the bodyguard is the only one among some 900 people who were part of Szijarto's visit to test positive. Hun Sen

safety measures put in place to contain it may hurt voter turnout. Traditional campaigning was severely limited by social distancing and quarantines in some areas.

Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, won the last elections in 2015 in a landslide, ending more than five decades of military-directed rule in the country.

Her party's main challenger, as it was five years ago, is the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, which has led the opposition in Parliament.

The ability of Suu Kyi's administration to run the country has been hamstrung by a clause in the 2008 army-drafted constitution giving the military 25% of the seats in Parliament, allowing it to block constitutional reforms.

The Election Commission said it would begin to an-

and four Cabinet ministers are in quarantine after they met with Szijarto the same day he tested positive. Hun Sen said he has tested negative and would abide by the country's coronavirus guidelines and stay quarantined for 14 days.

■ The Australian state of Victoria had its eighth day in a row of no new virus cases or deaths, ahead of another move back to normal living including no limits on travel outside of Melbourne and the resumption of flights to New Zealand. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews is expected to announce another relaxation of rules on Sunday, including the removal of Melbourne's so-called "ring of steel." No longer confined within a 25-kilometer (15-mile) radius, the city's residents will be allowed to travel throughout the state. Travel freedom is expected to expand again when the border with New South Wales state reopens to Victorians on Nov. 23. On Monday, the state will see the resumption of direct flights from New Zealand, the first international flights into Melbourne since June 30. Victoria's latest virus wave, which resulted in more than 18,000 infections and 800 deaths, has been traced to outbreaks among staff at two hotels that were acting as quarantine locations for arriving overseas passengers.

nounce results Monday morning. But it may take up to a week to collect all the votes, some of which will come from remote jungle areas.

With little sign of major interest in policy debates, the vote is seen as a referendum on Suu Kyi's leadership.

"There is no major party really putting an alternative, a credible alternative, forward," Yangon-based political analyst Richard Horsey said, explaining part of the reason Suu Kyi's side has a winning hand in Myanmar's heartland, where its ethnic Burman majority lives.

Even more important for the ruling party's prospects, he said, is "the personal support, even love, that many people have for Aung San Suu Kyi herself, almost irrespective of how the government administration performs, how the economy performs and so on."

World

Biden's ancestral home in Ireland celebrates his win

BALLINA, Ireland (AP)—Joe Biden is somewhat removed from the Irish town his great-great-great-grandfather left almost 200 years ago, but that is not stopping Ballina from celebrating his presidential victory.

The town in County Mayo, about 145 miles (235 kilometers) northwest of Dublin, has for days been draped in the Stars and Stripes and Biden/Harris banners in anticipation, even though many businesses have had to close due to lockdown restrictions.

Joe Blewitt, a heating and plumbing engineer and a cousin of Biden's, said the town of about 10,000 is ecstatic at the prospect of a President Joe Biden.

"Now he'll be the President of the United States, they're delighted, they're absolutely delighted," Blewitt said. "To think one of their own is one of the most powerful men in the world."

Blewitt, who was invited to the White House in 2017 when Biden was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama, said he hopes to be able to make it over again for the inauguration in January.

Blewitt says the pair are in regular contact too: "He's a really nice fella. He's good



A man puts a U.S. flag up in the town of Ballina, the ancestral home of President elect Joe Biden, in North West of Ireland, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020.

to talk to."

Biden, who visited Ballina in June 2016 when he was in his final few months as vice president, has pledged to visit again were he to prevail over Trump.

Biden's great-great-grandfather Edward Blewitt emigrated from the town, having worked as a brick-maker and as a civil engineer helping to map Ireland. Ten of Biden's 16 great-great grandparents were also born in Ireland.

Biden's victory was especially sweet for Beryl McCrahey Slevin, a California native who has lived in Ballina for more than 15 years.

Her hope is that Biden will be able to reunite her homeland after a divisive four

years under Trump.

"I'm hoping that after this election we can really work on building alliances with everyone in the country," she said. "We are all American and the ideals of America are so important globally, that I think it's really important that we come together once again as a nation and continue the work of building the American dream for everyone."

She also laid out her hope that Biden will "bring back dignity" to the White House and help heal the racial problems afflicting the U.S.

"I also feel very strongly that Joe Biden is in a place now that he's ready to do serious justice reform, police reform nationally," she said.

Books? Hairdressers? Europeans split on lockdown essentials

HALLE, Belgium (AP)—The concept of what is essential to keep a society functioning during coronavirus lockdowns is gripping Europe as the pandemic unleashes death, poverty, illness and isolation.

Beyond obvious candidates like food stores and pharmacies, some answers in the patchwork of nations and cultures that make up Europe can approach the surreal. An activity or item considered essential in one country can be off-limits across the border just a brief stroll down the road.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that while it might seem fairest to just shut everything down, "it's perhaps not the most practical" solution.

"If people are only satisfied when everything possible is shut down, then that's a view which naturally doesn't make economic sense," Merkel said.

That's why Germany is keeping car dealerships open

this time, after their closure in the first, spring lockdown hurt the country's huge automobile industry.

In Belgium, of course, chocolate shops are staying open.

"Chocolate is very much an essential food around here," said chocolatier Marleen Van Volsem at the Praleen chocolaterie south of Brussels. "It has to be. Because chocolate makes you happy."

Happiness would seem no subject to split hairs about. Neither would safety as infection numbers are setting global records. A total of 600,000 confirmed daily cases were reported worldwide for the first time Friday after having reached 500,000 for the first time on Oct. 26.

Yet consider how differently Italy and Britain treat a service that gladdens many a heart. In the country that coined the term "bella figura"—the art of cutting a fine figure—hairdressers are deemed essential.

"Italians really care about their image and about wellness," said Charity Cheah, the Milan-based co-founder of TONI&GUY Italy. "Perhaps psychologically, the government may feel that going to a salon is a moment of release from stress and tension, a moment of self-care, that citizens need."

But across England people have had to scramble to get their hair done in the last days and hours while they still could, before new pandemic restrictions came into force on Thursday.

"The thought of another lockdown and being stuck at home—(people thought) I'm going to throw caution to the wind and I am just going to come in and have my hair done," said Richard Ward, managing director at the Richard Ward Hair and Metro Spa on London's swank Sloane Square.

And then there are life's finer pleasures.



BEYOND THE GAME



There's more to sports than winning. It's also about education, character building, life's lessons, and making a difference in the community. Share you knowledge and skills. Nurture you talents. Be gracious in defeat and magnanimous in victory. Use stumbling blocks as stepping stones, don't be discouraged by failures. Outside of you games, dedicate your time, resources, and effort to community work. Then one day, when it's time to call it quits and hang up that jersey, look back not only at the championships you won, but also the people you assisted, the worthy causes you supported, the inspiration you provided, and the community you helped become a better place to live.



Life & Style

Johnny Depp exits 'Fantastic Beasts' franchise

NEW YORK (AP)—Johnny Depp has exited the "Fantastic Beasts" franchise following his failed libel case against The Sun tabloid newspaper for a 2018 article that labeled him a "wife beater."

Depp said Friday in a letter posted on Instagram that he would depart the role of the dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald after the studio requested

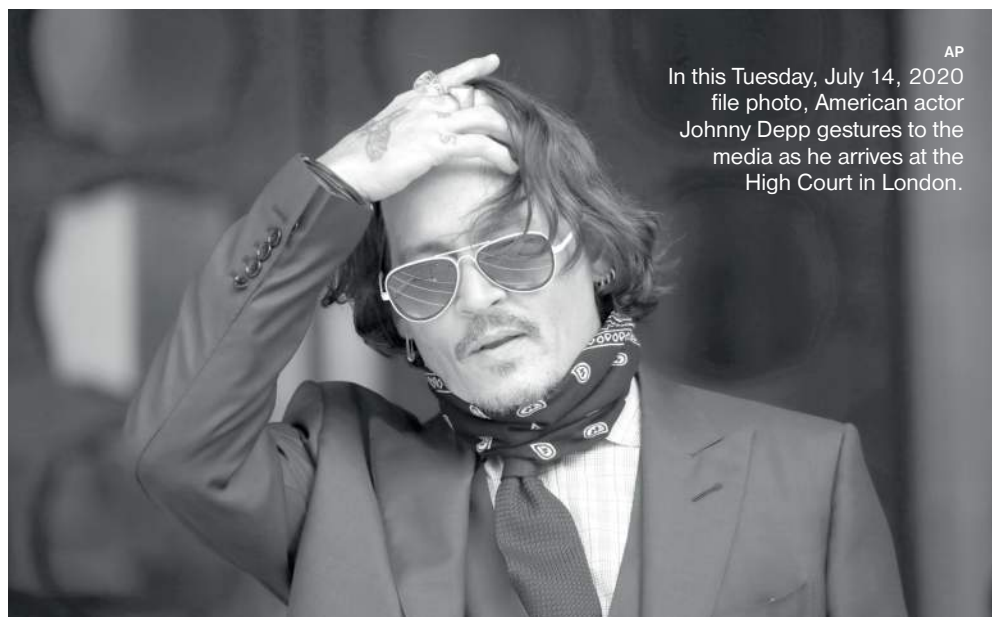
his resignation. Depp said his announcement came "in light of recent events."

"I wish to let you know that I have been asked to resign by Warner Bros. from my role as Grindelwald in 'Fantastic Beasts' and I have respected and agreed to that request," said Depp.

Warner Bros. confirmed Depp's departure and said the

role will be recast. "We thank Johnny for his work on the films to date," the studio said in a statement. The third "Fantastic Beasts" film is currently in production.

Depp also said he would appeal the decision earlier this week by a British judge. After hearing testimony from Depp and ex-wife Amber Heard in the high-profile case, Justice



AP
In this Tuesday, July 14, 2020 file photo, American actor Johnny Depp gestures to the media as he arrives at the High Court in London.

After waiting game, media moves swiftly to call Biden winner

NEW YORK (AP)—With a fifth day of vote counting testing the nation's patience, news organizations on Saturday moved swiftly following a crucial release of data from Pennsylvania to declare Democrat Joe Biden as the winner of the presidential election.

CNN made its call at 11:24 a.m. Eastern, and was followed within two minutes by The Associated Press, NBC, CBS and ABC. Fox News called the race at 11:40.

Because votes are counted state by state, verdicts by the

media outlets' decision desks serve as the unofficial finish line for the presidential race. The dramatic changes in how people voted this year, in part because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the challenges that created for tallying ballots, complicated the process.

The closeness of the race in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina proved another challenge.

"We just have to be certain before we call a winner in the presidential election,"

said Sally Buzbee, executive editor and senior vice president of the AP.

Heading into Saturday, CNN, CBS, NBC and ABC—which coordinate their vote counts and exit polls—had Biden at 253 electoral votes. Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes would put him above the 270 needed to win. The AP and Fox News, which share election data, each had Biden at 264 electoral votes because they had called Arizona for the former vice president earlier in the week.

Networks cut away from Trump's White House address

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC, CBS and NBC all cut away from President Donald Trump on Thursday as he spoke from the White House to make an unfounded accusation that the presidential election was being stolen from him.

Trump had tried to commandeer the nation's airwaves at a time when the evening newscasts are shown on the

East Coast, after a day when the slow drip of vote counting revealed his leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia dwindling.

MSNBC's Brian Williams also interrupted the president. Fox News Channel and CNN aired the president's full address, after which CNN's Anderson Cooper said Trump was "like an obese turtle on his back, flailing in the hot sun

realizing his time was over."

Network personalities had sharply criticized Trump after his angry, middle-of-the-night speech following Election Day but aired that talk in full. Trump was more subdued Thursday, yet offered a litany of complaints about "suppression" polls, mail-in voting and fraud that he never specified.

Andrew Nicol said that the allegations against Depp were "substantially true." Depp had sued News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and its executive editor, Dan Woot-

ton, over an article accusing him of assaulting Heard.

"The surreal judgement of the court in the U.K. will not change my fight to tell the truth and I confirm that I plan to ap-

peal," Depp said Friday. "My resolve remains strong and I intend to prove that the allegations against me are false. My life and career will not be defined by this moment in time."

Debut novel 'Luster' wins \$50,000 Kirkus prize

NEW YORK (AP)—A debut novel about a young Black woman in publishing who has an affair with a married white man has won a \$50,000 award. Raven Leilani's "Luster" is this year's winner of the Kirkus Prize for fiction.

The trade publication

Megachurch Pastor Carl Lentz fired, admits cheating on wife

NEW YORK (AP)—Carl Lentz, the celebrity magnet of a pastor who brought the global megachurch Hillsong from Australia to the United States, has been fired, acknowledging on Instagram that he cheated on his wife.

The leader of Hillsong-NYC, who once ministered to Justin Bieber and a bevy of other celebrities and sports stars, wrote: "When you lead out of an empty place, you make choices

that have real consequences. I was unfaithful in my marriage, the most important relationship in my life and held accountable for that."

Lentz and wife, Laura, who met as students at Hillsong's training college in Sydney, arrived in New York in 2010 to spread the church's style of mass gatherings, a slick online reach and Grammy-winning Christian rock music throughout the U.S. The church is popular among millennials

and others.

The couple lives in Montclair, New Jersey. They married in 2003 and have three children.

Brian Houston, a global senior pastor and founder of Hillsong, said in a message to the church's East Coast congregants Wednesday that Lentz was fired "following ongoing discussions in relationship to leadership issues and breaches of trust, plus a recent revelation of moral failures."

The more, the merrier holds true for family gathering

DEAR ABBY: We are approaching the time of year when many people struggle with how to divide time between families during the holidays. This is often made harder when there has been divorce and remarriage within a family, especially when children are involved. This was the case in our family.

Planning dinners and celebrations became far easier once I realized that holidays are not just arbitrary dates on a calendar, but a spirit of heart and mind. I let everyone else plan their events, and then choose a day that as many people as possible are available. I host an event on that day—a week earlier, a week (or month) later—it doesn't matter. What does matter is that we gather in love and friendship and have a wonderful time.

As a result, even my former daughters-in-law readily join in with their new spouses and children and we have a ball! We get to blend together four generations, and our youngest generation is richer for the experience. We joke about having "in-law" and "out-law" tables.

I'll be honest, it took work. The adults had to agree to act like adults, but I'm proud that everyone looks forward to coming to our holiday celebrations whenever they are held. My advice to your readers: Forget the calendar and remember the reason for the gathering!

FOUND HOLIDAY SPIRIT

DEAR FOUND: I love your attitude, and couldn't stop smiling after reading your letter. Thank you so much for writing. I hope it will open the minds and hearts of other readers.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 61-year-old man. When I was 40, I was told by my sister that Dad had confided that our mom -- who had recently passed—had been married before. We were both floored that it was a secret all those years and that, with a family of 12 aunts and uncles and countless cousins, no one ever spilled the beans.

About a year ago, I asked an older cousin on Facebook why no one had ever mentioned it. He said his mom told him not to, AND that my oldest sister, also deceased, wasn't my dad's daughter. Dad is gone now, and I only have my cousin's word to go by.

Almost all of the relatives are dead, and the only living uncle was younger than my mom. He's in his 80s now and doesn't remember anything like that. I can't help but wonder what other parts of my life were a "lie." I have suffered from depression for years and this certainly doesn't help. Any thoughts?

JUMBLED IN TEXAS

DEAR JUMBLED: I'm glad you asked because I do have some to offer. None of the parts of your life have been

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



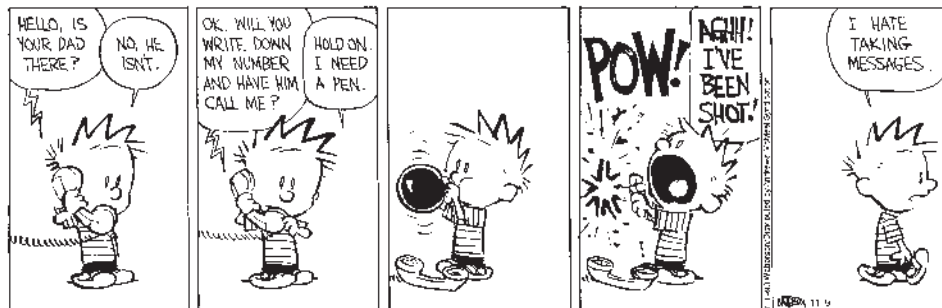
a "lie." Certain parts of your PARENTS' lives were obfuscated, most likely because they weren't proud of them. In your parents' generation, divorce was less common than it has been in more recent decades. But they are dead and gone now. It is time to forgive them for their lapses and concentrate on your own life. A step in the right direction would be to schedule some time with a licensed therapist to talk about your depression.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

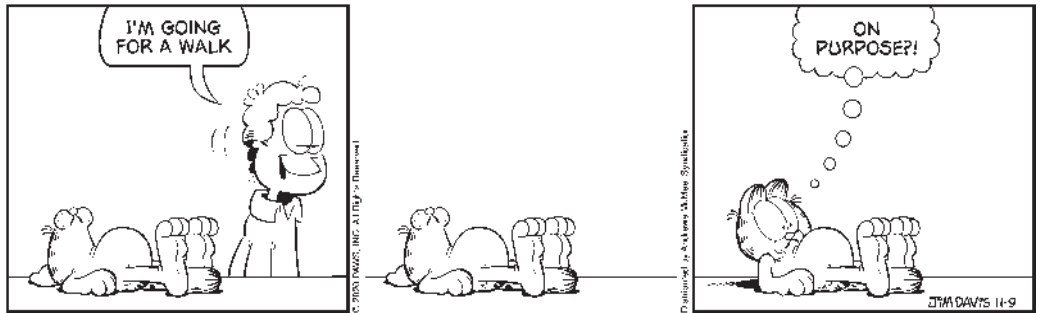
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Furniture brand

5 Business mag

8 One of TV's Huxtables

12 Brine

14 Get wind of

15 Calculating competitor

16 Exceptional

17 "— a Camera"

18 Moon mission

20 Fancy dances

23 Fed. agents

24 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"

25 Brimming

28 Male turkey

29 Bottled spirit?

30 Stately tree

DOWN

32 Discharge

34 Lady of the haus

35 Operates

36 Existence

37 Honey-dew alter-native

40 Bond rating

41 Oil cartel

42 Sidewalk material

47 Onion's kin

48 Tied down

49 Tosses in

50 Fourth-yr. students

51 June honorees

1 Belief

2 Mauna — fusses

3 "Mangia!" garnish

4 Indefinite interval

5 Detail

6 Profit anew

7 Goofy

8 Seat of power

9 Make well

10 Count

11 Layered cookie

13 "Sad to say ..."

19 Soccer legend

20 Wager

21 Big fusses

22 Margarita

23 Chaps

25 Depicts

26 Actress

27 Panache

29 Comes-tibles

31 Coffee holder

33 Fissures

34 Dreaded

36 "Coffee Cantata" composer

37 Pop flavor

38 Lacked originality

39 Feeder filler

40 Pantry pests

43 Not 'neath

44 Notable time

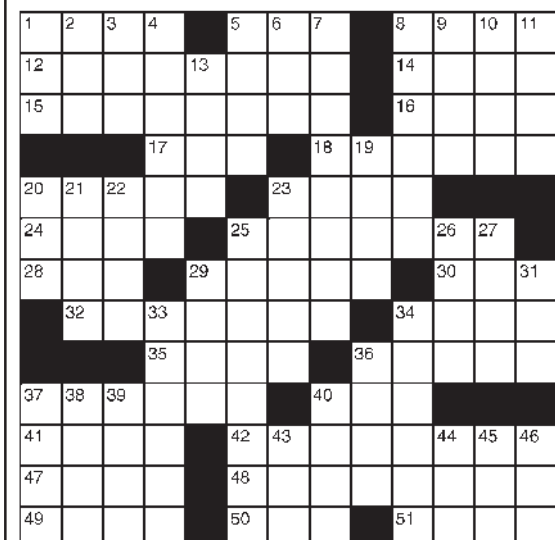
45 Slugger Williams

46 Mag. staff

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	B	S	I	B	I	S	A	H	A	B
S	C	W	M	J	S	S	L	O	L	A
H	E	A	T	H	R	O	W	E	W	E
N	O	O	V	E	P	I	C	S		
A	I	O	T	I	A	M	P			
C	O	A	T	D	O	C	T	O	R	O
A	O	K	L	A	G	O	S	E	P	A
I	N	E	S	C	R	O	W	S	I	E
I	D	E	S	C	O	E	D	S		
G	R	T	S	B	C	N	A			
O	U	S	T	O	V	E	R	G	R	O
I	D	L	E	O	I	N	K	S	E	E
I	F	F	A	T	S					

Last Friday's Answer 11/09



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cory Hardict, 41; Nick Lachey, 47; Susan Tedeschi, 50; Lou Ferrigno, 69.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind. How you use your skills, knowledge and experience will determine what you accomplish. Don't be afraid to take a different path. Learning as you go will be mentally stimulating and instrumental in deciding what brings you the most satisfaction. Channel your energy wisely, and it will lead to enlightenment and new beginnings. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 26, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be passionate about your future, and make suggestions that will deal with the problems you have faced for too long. Don't fold under pressure or give in to unfair solutions. Initiate plans that will lead to better days ahead. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Alter the way you live your life. Reach out to youngsters, close friends, relatives or your lover, and you'll come up with new ways to remain close and connected, regardless of distancing regulations put in place. Look for positive alternatives. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show compassion when dealing with emotional issues. Be a good listener, friend, parent, lover or colleague. How you help others will influence your reputation and your chance to advance. Self-improvement projects are favored. Offer love and understanding over criticism and discord. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make positive changes at home. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place. Discourage

joint ventures that generate discrepancies. Choose to do your own thing, and budget wisely. Keep the peace, but don't give in to peer pressure. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change to how you earn your living may not live up to your expectations. Consider a new way to improve your resume, and pick up skills and knowledge to help you head in a more suitable direction. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look at all angles of every situation, and you'll come up with a diplomatic plan that will help you convince others to see things your way. Draw on individuals who have unique backgrounds that encourage greater diversity. Romance is featured. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems will mount if you don't make adjustments to the way you spend or how you live. Too much of anything will lead to criticism and opposition. Stop procrastinating; align yourself with like-minded people, and put your plans in motion. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do your best to improve meaningful relationships. Set high standards and goals, and initiate what you want to pursue. Communication is vital if you're going to gain support. Present what you have to offer. Positive change is heading your way. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Embrace change, be open to learning something new and update your skills to reflect current trends. Go about your business, and enhance your chance to succeed. Self-improvement will lead to compliments and boost your ego. Romance is on the rise. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Address money matters, and implement a plan to lower your overhead. Shared expenses will turn into a problem if someone is falling short. Look for ways to even the tally to avoid further disruptions. Do your best to keep the peace. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let someone distract you. It's essential to stay on top of your responsibilities and live by the rules and regulations. Moderation will be necessary financially, emotionally and physically if you want to maintain your status quo. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take control of situations, and you'll avoid someone railroading you into something you don't want to do. A change of pace will give you time to figure out your next move and protect against someone taking advantage of you. ***

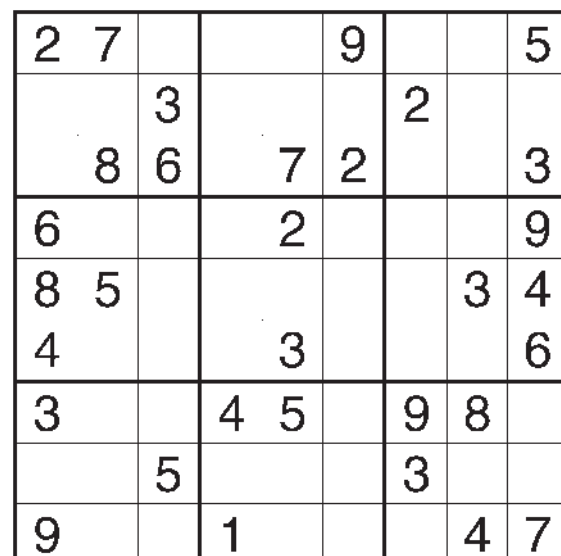
Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, engaging and unique. You are creative and heartfelt.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



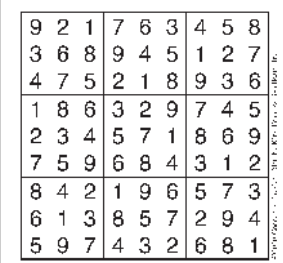
Difficulty Level ★

11/09

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IF I MUST CONFESS ...

Solution: 9 letters

Y E T F O N D N E S S H A M E
S R D A S R A E F E L B A I L
T I E H T I A F A D V I S E
U P L T C C B H S G O M F D P
G S F U T M C U U I P E L E A
N N F R E A N I O E G H A E I
I O A T E V L M R D S H W D S
M O B I C S E L R S I F I G P
C E L L S C W C C S E S N R O
T Y T I T O R A L I S I O R U
R O O I N I N E L I L F E O S
O N O K M D A E M E E O A R E
H N C E A D B D E S A C V R N
S A Y L I M A F S T E R C E S

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11/9

Acknowledge, Admission, Admit, Advise, Annoyed, Baffled, Beliefs, Breach, Case, Chat, Conspire, Crime, Crush, Doubts, Error, Faith, Family, Fears, Feelings, Flattery, Flaws, Fondness, Guilt, Gutsy, Imperfections, Liable, Lies, Love, Misdeed, Misdemeanor, Omission, Pain, Profess, Scandal, Secret, Shame, Shortcoming, Sigh, Spouse, Truth, Unveil

Last Friday's Answer: Entertainment

Purchase WONDERWORD books in time for the holidays! Visit WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

LeMahieu to decline Yankees' \$18.9M offer



**N E W
Y O R K**—In what should

come as expected news, it sounds like DJ LeMahieu will not be accepting the Yankees' qualifying offer of \$18.9 million for the 2021 season.

According to MLB Network's Jon Heyman, LeMahieu is planning to decline the Bombers' qualifying offer. The infielder has until next Wednesday to officially inform the team whether or not he will accept the offer.

But it's always looked like LeMahieu is headed for a big-money deal this offseason, as he's established himself as one of the game's best pure hitters over the past two seasons.

LeMahieu has been named a 2020 AL Silver Slugger at second base, given to the top offensive players at each position.

The 32-year-old won the American League batting title with his .364 average, while his .421 OBP and 1.011 slugging percentage were equally as impressive. LeMahieu proved to be the most valuable member of the Yankees again this season, slugging 10 home runs with 27 RBI and 41 runs scored in 50 games, while also having the versatility to play third base and first base as well.

And while this piece of hardware is certainly one that LeMahieu will keep on his mantle, he's still after a bigger prize as well. After finishing fourth in MVP voting in 2019, LeMahieu is a finalist this year, along with Chicago's Jose Abreu and Cleveland's Jose Ramirez. Abreu is likely to end up the winner on Nov. 12, but that shouldn't



Tampa Bay Rays' Joey Wendle attempts to steal second base, while New York Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu gets ready to catch a throw during the fourth inning in Game 3 of the American League Division Series, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020, in San Diego. AP

take away from the remarkable season LeMahieu had in pinstripes.

The big question now, of course, is whether or not the Yankees will be able to retain LeMahieu's services, as he's now one of the biggest names on the free agency front.

In a related report, the Mets offered starting pitcher Marcus Stroman a qualifying offer of \$18.9 million on Sunday, but it sounds like the Long Island native is nearing closer and closer to turning that down.

According to a report from Mike Puma of the New York Post, the 29-year-old is "leaning toward rejecting that offer and seeking a multiyear deal

on the open market."

This shouldn't come as much of a surprise, since the prevailing thought has been that Stroman would test the market in search of a longer deal. Still, it's not exactly what Mets fans want to hear, considering the Mets traded a pair of pitching prospects (Anthony Kay and Simeon Woods-Richardson) to acquire the right-hander.

In 11 games with the Mets following the 2019 trade deadline, Stroman went 4-2 with a 3.77 ERA, a 4.15 FIP, and a 1.475 WHIP. The 2020 season was more of a roller-coaster for Stroman, as he ultimately elected to opt out

due to COVID-19 concerns after rehabbing from a torn left calf muscle he suffered during Summer Camp.

If Stroman were to leave as a free agent signing elsewhere, it would leave the Mets' pitching rotation in a tougher spot than it's already in. Jacob deGrom will be back, of course, but there is a lot of unknown after the two-time Cy Young winner. Noah Syndergaard is recovering from Tommy John surgery, and while he could possibly be back by Opening Day, it may be more likely that he's out of the picture until June or July. That leaves the Mets with David Peterson, Steven Matz, and a lot of other

questions to answer.

Meanwhile, the Cleveland Indians have signaled that they will trade star shortstop Francisco Lindor this winter, according to multiple industry sources.

According to sources, the Indians would ideally like a young, controllable shortstop or outfielder, though the exact price will, of course, depend on the trading partner.

Could the Yankees have LeMahieu and Lindor? That invites a question about Gleyber Torres' future with the team. Perhaps the Yanks could package Torres with Adam Ottavino's contract, and trade for Lindor with the intention of

extending him. Ottavino could replace Brad Hand in the back end of the Indians' bullpen.

Incoming Mets owner Steve Cohen is highly unlikely to acquire multiple high-paid star players this offseason. That could start a war with the other MLB owners who just voted to approve him. But he could snag one or Lindor or free agents like George Springer, J.T. Realmuto or Trevor Bauer.

Lindor would probably force the Mets to part with Andres Gimenez or Amed Rosario at a minimum. The question is if the Mets would have to include Dom Smith or Pete Alonso, which other teams consider likely. *(AP/NBC)*

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox are bringing back Alex Cora, rehiring the manager that led them to the 2018 World Series title less than a year after the team let him go because of his role in the Houston Astros' cheating scandal.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to manage once again and return to the game I have loved my entire life," Cora said in a statement Friday. "Boston is where I have always wanted to be and I could not be more excited to help the Red Sox achieve our ultimate goal of winning in October."

Boston announced the decision 10 days after Cora finished a one-season suspension for his role in the Astros sign-stealing scheme during their 2017 championship run. Cora was Houston's bench coach when he joined the Red Sox in November 2017, and he led Boston to the 2018 title after a franchise-record 108 regular-season wins.

After cheating scandal, Red Sox rehire Cora

The Red Sox, who finished third in 2019, let Cora go in January after Commissioner Rob Manfred identified him as the ringleader in the Astros' scheme.

"This past year, I have had time to reflect and evaluate many things, and I recognize how fortunate I am to lead this team once again," Cora said. "Not being a part of the game of baseball, and the pain of bringing negative attention to my family and this organization was extremely difficult. I am sorry for the harm my past actions have caused and will work hard to make this organization and its fans proud."

An infielder on Boston's 2007 champions, Cora was mentioned 11 times in Manfred's decision on the Astros. The fallout from the Astros investigation also cost Houston manager AJ Hinch and

newly hired New York Mets manager Carlos Beltrán their jobs; Hinch was hired as Detroit Tigers manager last week after completing his one-season suspension.

"Alex knows that what he did was wrong, and he regrets it," Red Sox Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said. "He loves the Red Sox and the game of baseball, and because of that we believe he will make good on this second chance."

Bloom, who joined the Red Sox last offseason, did not hire Cora the first time but was in charge when the team let Cora go last winter. Ron Roenicke was promoted from bench coach to be Cora's replacement, then was let go after the salary-shedding Red Sox stumbled to a last-place finish in the AL East.

"Alex should be manag-

ing. He did a really good job here," Roenicke, who was a bench coach on Cora's staff, told reporters after he was fired. "I'm hoping he does this again. Whether it's here or its somewhere else, he should be managing."

New Mets owner cleans house

General manager Brodie Van Wagenen and many of his top aides left the New York Mets on Friday less than an hour after hedge fund manager Steve Cohen announced he completed his \$2.4 billion purchase of the team.

Special assistant to the general manager Omar Minaya, assistant general managers Allard Baird and Adam Guttridge and executive director of player development Jared Banner also departed.

The status of senior vice

president and senior strategy officer John Ricco was not mentioned.

Cohen ended the Wilpon family's control of the franchise after 34 mostly frustrating years and took the title of chief executive officer. He hired former Mets general manager Sandy Alderson as team president in his first move and ended Jeff Wilpon's tenure as chief operating officer.

Alderson, not Cohen, announced the baseball staff departures and said he had started the process of building a leadership staff.

"This is a significant milestone in the history of this storied franchise," Cohen said in a statement. "The 2021 season is right around the corner and we've got a lot of work to do, so I'm excited to get started."

Van Wagenen was a player agent and co-head of CAA Baseball before Wilpon hired him to replace Alderson after the 2018 season. The Mets went 86-76, finishing third in the NL East, and Van Wagenen fired manager Mickey Callaway and replaced him with Carlos Beltrán.

But when Beltrán was implicated in January by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred in the Houston Astros sign stealing scandal during Beltrán's final season as a player in 2017, Beltrán lost his job within days without managing a game and was replaced by qualify control coach Luis Rojas. New York went 26-34 and missed the expanded playoffs.

Friday's moves make Rojas' future uncertain.

Fired Astros GM Jeff Luhnow, who completed a season-long suspension last week, could be a candidate for the analytics-oriented Cohen.

No blooms, no fans, no roars in Masters

GEORGIA (AP)—Nothing about this Masters will look familiar until the champion slips his arms through a green jacket.

The purple, pink and white blooms of azaleas and dogwoods, which provide such a magnificent accent to Augusta National in spring, give way to the orange and gold hues of autumn. The course might look familiar with its emerald green fairways, blazing white sand in the bunkers, towering Georgia pines and the still water of Rae's Creek.

It just won't sound the same, not without thousands upon thousands of spectators framing each hole and sending those piercing roars from all corners of the course.

It won't be the same.

What makes this Masters unlike any other is the calendar. Golf's annual rite of spring is now two weeks before Thanksgiving. And without its patrons, the cathedral of golf will never be quieter.

"It's going to be eerie. It's going to be different," Rory McIlroy said. "But at least we're playing for a green jacket."

Not even that much was certain when the COVID-19 pandemic began shutting down sports around the world a week before the first day of spring. The Masters was postponed—a relief to those who initially feared cancellation—and then rescheduled for Nov. 12-15, the final major of an unforgettable year.

When the pandemic did not loosen its grip, the club had no choice but to close the door to its patrons. No need for those green "Golf Traffic" signs posted about the city, or people lining the streets of Washington Road looking for tickets.

There won't be a Par 3 Contest, with players dressing their children in white coveralls. The first-time players might not know any better. For the veterans, it might not be much different from their scouting trips to Augusta National. They will know what they're missing, the sights and sounds.

"You walk through the gates at Augusta, there's that energy, that anticipation," said McIlroy, making his 10th appearance at the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam. "There's still a golf course there. There's still a golf tournament to be won, and you've got to make the most of it."

"But they're playing," he said. "And that's the most important part."

Tiger Woods had to wait 19 months to play another Masters.

He won his fifth green jacket, as significant as any



In this April 14, 2019 file photo, Tiger Woods celebrates after sinking his putt on the 18th hole during the final round of the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, to win his first major championship in 11 years and his fifth-ever Masters victory.

much at all.

By now, the players should be used to the silence. Spectators were not allowed at the PGA Championship or U.S. Open, and only recently have a very limited number of fans been allowed in Bermuda and Houston.

But nowhere else than Au-

gusta National will the quiet be so difficult to ignore.

"It echoes there. It travels. You can figure out who's doing what, and the roars for certain people are louder than others," Woods said. "It's unlike any other place in the world."

Still, they're playing. It's the Masters. Woods is chasing another green jacket. Five players already have taken their turn at No. 1 this year. It should be quite a show, just like always, right up until the point CBS signs off from Augusta National on Sunday afternoon so it can broadcast an NFL game.

Djokovic still No. 1, ties Sampras' record

AUSTRIA — Novak Djokovic has sealed the year-end men's world number one tennis ranking for the sixth time to go level with childhood hero Pete Sampras after closest rival Rafael Nadal opted against playing in the ATP Tour event in Sofia next week.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion Nadal, ranked second, was the only player who had a chance to stop the Serbian from finishing as the top-ranked player in 2020.

"Pete was somebody I looked up to when I was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true," Djokovic said in an ATP statement. "I will also keep striving to be a better player, hopefully have more success and break more records in a sport I love with all my heart."

During the year Djokovic won the ATP Cup in January before picking up a record-extending eight Australian Open Grand Slam in Melbourne. He also won the Cincinnati Masters and a record 36th ATP Masters title in Rome.

In September Djokovic also overtook American Pete Sampras, who ended as No. 1 for six straight years between 1993 and 1998, for the most weeks overall at the top ranking and will begin his 294th week in first spot on Monday.

The 33-year-old Djokovic, the winner of 17 Grand Slam titles, has mentioned that Roger Federer's record of 310 weeks as No. 1 remains his target and he will have a chance to move past the Swiss on March 8 if he can hold on to his top spot.

"To finish the year as No. 1 is one of the most impressive achievements in our sport, one which requires sustained excellence across the season," ATP Chairman Andrea Gaudenzi added.

"To see Novak achieve this for the sixth time and match Pete's record is simply incredible, and he continues to cement his place in the history books."

Nadal loses

Alexander Zverev advanced to the Paris Masters final for the first time by beating the top-seeded Nadal 6-4, 7-5, on Saturday, denying the Spaniard the chance to win a tournament that continues to elude him.

The fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's final, and leads him 5-1 in career meetings.

Nadal has won 86 titles, including a record-equaling 20 Grand Slams and 35 Masters events, but lost his only final here in 2007 to David Nalbandian.

Serving for the match at an empty Bercy Arena because of the coronavirus pandemic, the imposing Zverev opened with his 13th ace.

He double-faulted on his first match point at 40-0. But on the next one, Nadal's forehand down the line went wide to give the 23-year-old German only his second win in seven matches against the Spanish veteran.

Nadal was broken to love in the third game and dropped the opening set for the third time in his four matches. Zverev won 78% of points on first serve compared to 60% for Nadal and led 9-1 in aces in that set. He clinched it with a sliced shot at the net which Nadal could not reach.

"He's in the final serving huge. I think I returned better than the other days, but was impossible at the beginning. He was serving bombs and hitting the right spots all the time," Nadal said. "So I decided to go eight meters behind the baseline later on in the match and I think worked better for me." (NBC)

of his 15 majors considering where he had been. His one-shot victory last year capped one of the more remarkable comebacks in sport, which included four back surgeries and a DUI arrest from a bad mix of medicine while trying to cope with pain.

Woods ended the year by winning in Japan for his 82nd career victory, tying the PGA Tour record held by Sam Snead. Excitement was building toward this year, especially the Masters. And then it stopped.

Woods, keeping a limited schedule to get the most out of his 44-year-old body, had played only two tournaments when the pandemic stopped sports.

And then he hardly played at all—one time before an ordinary performance at the PGA Championship, two FedEx Cup playoff events before he missed the cut at the U.S. Open, and one tournament in the two months leading to the Masters. Las Vegas

set his odds of tying Jack Nicklaus with a sixth green jacket at 35-1.

"The entire year has been different for all of us," he said. "And my run-up to Augusta is unlike anything I've ever experienced. That's just the way it is."

But it's Augusta National, a course he knows as well as any. His optimism hasn't waned.

"My game is definitely better than it was at the U.S. Open," Woods said last month.

"I feel a little bit more prepared, a little bit better, and hopefully that translates into playing the golf course."

Even as the defending champion, and golf's biggest star, Woods is playing second billing at this Masters.

Bryson DeChambeau has been the talk of golf since golf returned. He added some 40 pounds of muscle and mass, all designed to enable him to swing faster and harder and hit drives farther than anyone

imagined. It carried him to a six-shot victory in the U.S. Open with a game that defied convention. And that was just the start.

DeChambeau took a month off ahead of the Masters to work on a 48-inch driver—the size used by World Long Drive contestants, his inspiration—with hopes of dismantling Augusta National the way Woods did when he hit pitching wedge into a par 5 on his way to a 12-shot victory in 1997.

"If he can get a 48-inch driver in play, he'll shoot 20 under or better. It's going to be a slaughter," said World Long Drive champion Kyle Berkshire, who provides feedback to DeChambeau. "He might as well be the only one on the course."

DeChambeau won't be the only one on the course. It will just feel that way.

Players are allowed to bring one significant other and a coach. Augusta National members can attend. That's it. And for the Masters, that's not



More questions raised after NBA start set



NEW YORK—The NBA is now on track to return next month with training camps expected to open on Dec. 1 and games to be played beginning Dec. 22. That is quite soon and it could be seen differently depending on whom you ask.

One thing is for sure, though, and that is we still don't know a lot about what lies ahead for the league.

For most of the NBA, playing games in Dec. 22 is good news, as they get to return to the court for the first time in months. Some teams haven't played since August and eight of them haven't played a game since March. That is a long time to wait.

It is a much different story for the teams that made deep playoff runs. The Lakers and Heat, for example, just finished playing the Finals weeks ago. Now they are likely to

open training camp on Dec. 1 and be playing games three weeks after that. Because of the quick turnaround, it would not be surprising at all if some players rested early in the season. Some could even join their teams at a later date. LeBron James, for one, has reason to play it extra safe given his age and career mileage.

We know the draft will be on Nov. 18, but it isn't clear yet when free agency will begin and even when we know that, it will be difficult to predict how it will operate. One thing is clear and that is there are no superstars available, which means it could be a less-active free agent period than we have grown accustomed to after consecutive years in which James and Kawhi Leonard were on the market.

But this is still the NBA and crazy things will happen, that we know. They just may have to be in the form of



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James loses his balance after colliding with Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler during the second half in Game 5 of the NBA Finals Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Burke, also left Indiana to join Doc Rivers' Sixers staff. The two actually ran a FIBA clinic on the Pacers' offense in 2018, if you're curious to get a sense of how they work together.

Sam Cassell, Dave Joerges and Brian Adams are among the other recent assistant coaching hires in Philadelphia. It's a bench with impressive credentials.

After an 11-year NBA career as a rebounding-focused forward that included stops in Dallas, Toronto, Boston, Denver, Washington and Golden State, Jones worked for the Mavs and Nets before heading to the Pacers.

"You try to take something away from each guy you played for, and that you worked for as a coach," Jones said last year. "There's Dick Motta, my first coach—I take a lot from him. I played for Doug Collins, who I love, who's a perfectionist. I take a lot from him. I worked for Rick Carlisle for a year."

"I worked for Avery Johnson, who came out of the San Antonio system under (Gregg Popovich). Frank Vogel, who was great in Indiana, I learned from him. And then there's Nate ... all those guys have been instrumental in developing me as a coach." (AP/NBC)

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ing 52:57. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita placed second with a time of 56:42, while Taro Goto rounded out the podium finish after logging 57:44.

Kosuke Sato did not make it to the Top 3, but was among the runners who completed the course under the one-hour mark after registering 58:20—the fourth best time overall. Four members of the CNMI national teams joined Sato, Goto, Mita, and Abel in the Top 10 with Markus Toves (1:00:59) coming in at fifth place, Jireh Yobech (1:04:40)

at eighth, Joshua Deleon (1:06:02) at ninth, and Merrick Toves (1:07:06) at 10th. Marshall Hoskins also made it to the Top 10, as he was ranked No. 7 after recording 1:02:23.

In the women's division CNMI player Lilian Podziewski (1:15:17), Lydia Cai (1:18:56), Astrid Poole (1:19:50), Jessica Ortizo (1:20:15), and Mengwei Gai (1:20:43) earned Top 10 finishes.

Last Saturday's 5th Off-Road Duathlon and North Trail Run was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and supported by TanHoldings, MARPAC, and Saipan Apparel. Results of the duathlon race will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screen grab of the video footage of the 5th Off-Road Duathlon and North Trail Run show participants heading out to the run course.

trades. Whatever goes down, it will be in a sprint with training camps starting around two weeks after free agency begins. That could make it seem like a wild offseason no matter what, but it won't actually qualify as one unless the landscape of the league is shifted.

No bubble

The NBA did an impressive job pulling off their restart bubble in Orlando. It went so smoothly that it is easy to forget just how much went into the planning and how many people were rightfully skeptical they could

execute it all. But they did it, crowned a champion and had zero outbreaks of the coronavirus along the way.

Now they are going forward with a much different plan that involves teams playing in their home arenas. At some point, fans may enter the equation. There are going to be far more variables now than there were and, if MLB and the NFL are any indication, we can probably expect some obstacles along the way. Commissioner Adam Silver has earned some benefit of the doubt here given how much better his plan

worked than in other leagues, but it could be much harder to keep things under control in this format.

Jones joining Rivers' staff

Popeye Jones is joining the Sixers as an assistant coach, a team source confirmed Saturday. Jones had been a Pacers assistant since 2013 but is leaving the organization after Indiana hired Nate Bjorkgren to replace Nate McMillan as head coach.

Another former Pacers assistant, defensive mind Dan

CABRERA

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in 23:19 more than five minutes ahead of Pang. The SIS runner's first place finish overshadowed the impressive overall performance of Agape's women's team in the division. Agape runners occupied the No. 2 to 7 spots in the finishers list with Eunice Xu coming in at third place, followed by Grace Shi, Elizabeth Xu, Sally Wu, and Elim Huang. Linxi Cai, Jinie

Thompson, and Pyper Liske-Clark of SIS and Aleia Santos, Erin Frink, and Penelope Sablan of Mt. Carmel also completed the course under the 35-minute cut-off time.

With the opening leg of this season's cross country series now in the books, NMA and PSS will only have two more qualifying events. The second leg is set for this Saturday, while the third and last is scheduled for No. 21. High school students need to compete in at least



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School, left, and Agape Christian School runners sprint to the finish line.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three Agape Christian School runners keep each other's company in the first few meters of the girls U18 race.



LeMahieu
to decline
Yankees'
\$18.9M offer

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No blooms,
no fans,
no roars in
Masters

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Players and officials of the CNMI national team poses for a photo after participating in last Saturday's 5th Off-Road Duathlon and North Trail Run held in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

94 complete North Trail Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The finishers list in the 11.5-kilometer course of the 5th Off-Road Duathlon and North Trail Run had 94 individuals, including the 33 members and officials of the CNMI national football teams.

Kaithlyn Chavez, who is a part of the CNMI Women's National Team, ruled the women's division of the 11.5K trail run that brought participants from the Last Command Post to the North Trail Loop, pathway, Kimikaze Trail, Autobahn Trail, Santa Clause Trail, and Ban-

zai Trail-Cliff and back to the start/finish line. She timed in at 1:02:12, nearly seven minutes ahead of runner-up Denise Myers, who submitted 1:09:10. Katarina Obsivanova completed the Top 3 finish in the division after checking in at 1:09:30, while

Kristelle Itaas (1:09:56), another CNMI player, and Lydia Tan (1:13:30) came in at fourth and fifth place, respectively.

In the men's division, the Top 4 finishers broke the one-hour barrier with Tomas Abel posting the fastest time in last Saturday's race after record-

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Cabrera, Pixley off to strong start

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School's Rex Pixley and Tiana Cabrera topped the high school races in the opening leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan International School's Tiana Cabrera is way ahead in the girls U18 race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Rex Pixley, running third, joins fellow U18 runners in heading out to the course of last Saturday's opening leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held at the CPA Airport Field.

Pixley finished the 3.1-mile course in 20 minutes and 31 seconds to clinch first place in the boys U18 division, besting 14 other runners, including Agape Christian School's Ray Qi. Pixley and Qi kept each other's company in the majority of the three-lap course before the SIS student, cheered by his schoolmates and supporters, including veteran

runner and his father Steven, gained some distance entering the finish line loop or in the last 120 meters of the race. Qi clocked in at 20:40 to settle for second place and was followed by his fellow Agape runners—Eason Tang and Allen Luo. Rounding out the Top 5 was SIS' Sam Culp.



Other runners who joined the first qualifier last weekend (in order of finish/sixth to 15th place) were Agape's Jason Cao, SIS' Jayden Shin, Agape's Samuel He and Peter Hu, Marianas High School's Anthony Bergancia, Jim Maniago, and Blake Mister, SIS' Jack Linden and Paul Xiong, and Mt.

Carmel School's Robin Alvarez. Meanwhile, in the girls U18 race, Cabrera and Agape's Emma Pang were in a close race only in the first lap of the course before the SIS student breezed her way past her closest rival and 11 other runners. Cabrera completed the race

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